



FEB • 2
\$2.95 US
\$4.15 CAN

MARVEL[®]
SPIDER-MAN
GROUP

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

®

VENOM

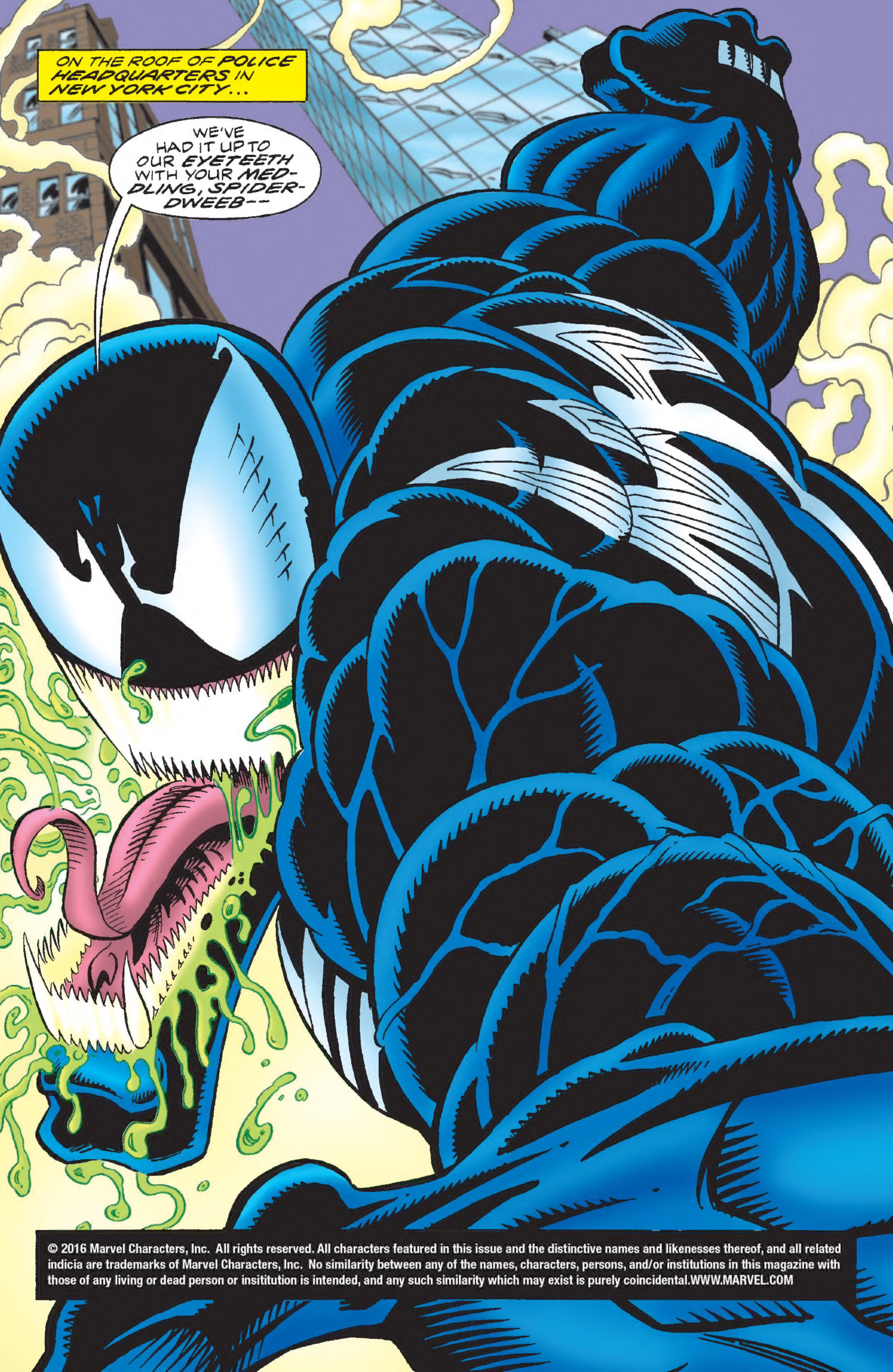
ALONG CAME A SPIDER...

ST. PIERRE



ON THE ROOF OF POLICE
HEADQUARTERS IN
NEW YORK CITY...

WE'VE
HAD IT UP TO
OUR EYETEETH
WITH YOUR MED-
DLING, SPIDER-
DWEB--



... AND SAT DOWN
BESIDE HER!

...AND
WE'RE NOT GOING
TO TAKE IT ANY-
MORE!!

STOP IT,
EDDIE--!

YOU'RE
GOING TO
HURT
HIM!

THAT
IS ENTIRELY
THE POINT,
ANN!

WOOF!
DID THAT EVER
SMART--!

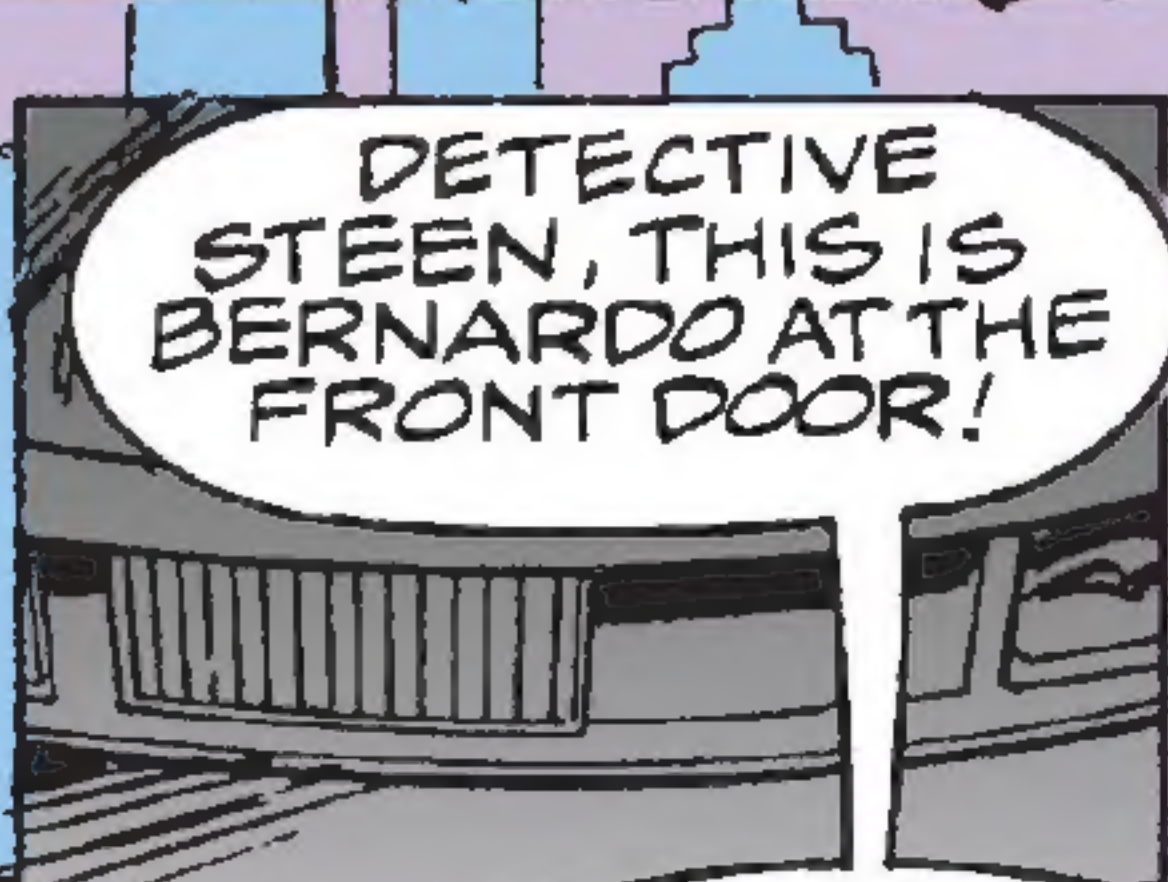
WHAT
HAVE I GOT
MYSELF
INTO...?

HE'S
STANDING IN THE WAY
OF OUR RESCUING YOU
FROM THE WICKED
AND CORRUPT
POLICE!!

LARRY HAMA SCRIPT
JOE ST. PIERRE &
TOM GRINDBERG BREAKDOWNS
RANDY EMBERLIN, MARK McKENNA,
RODNEY RAMOS & GREG ADAMS FINISHES
TOM SMITH COLORING
MALIBU COMPUTER COLOR
SUE CRESPI &
CAROLINE WELLS LETTERING
TOM BREVOORT EDITOR
BOB BUDIANSKY EDITOR IN CHIEF



... I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE NEAR THE EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THIS CREEP THAT MY CLONE HAD!



DETECTIVE STEEN, THIS IS BERNARDO AT THE FRONT DOOR!

VENOM IS ON THE ROOF, SMASHING UP THE FIXTURES WITH SPIDER-MAN!

WE'RE ON OUR WAY-- YOU SAY SPIDER-MAN IS HELPING HIM??



VENOM IS WIPING MY CLOCK, BUT GOOD!



CHECK IT OUT! MAJOR SUPER-GEEK-DUKE-OUT ON THE ROOF!



SECURITY 2 TO CENTRAL. PATCH ME THROUGH TO STEEN IN HQ, ASAP!

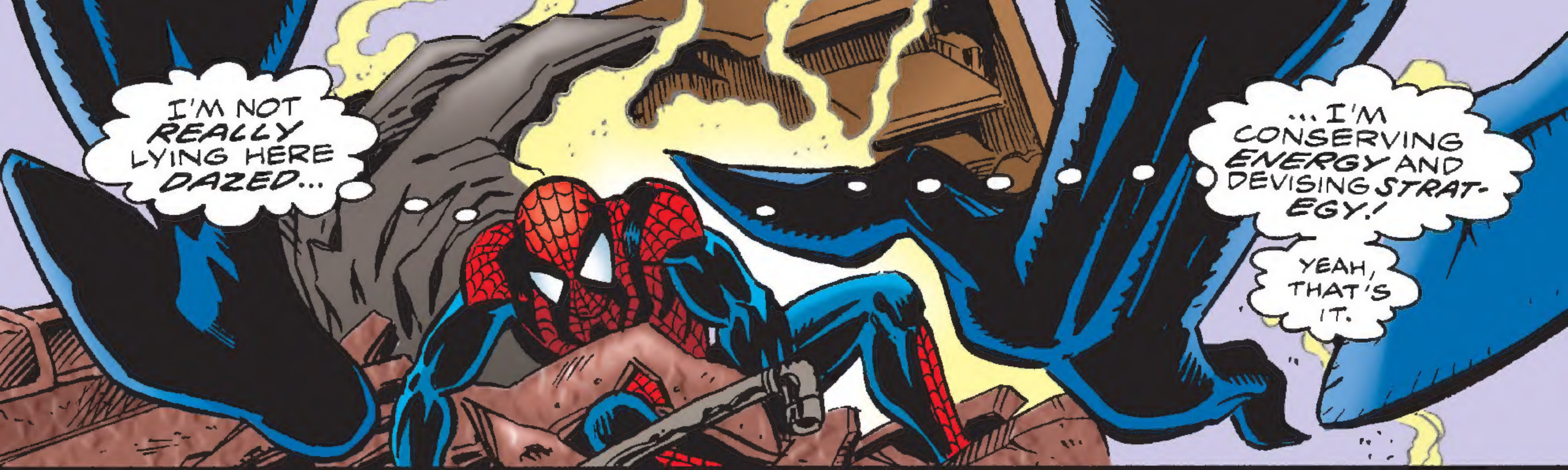


ROGER THAT!



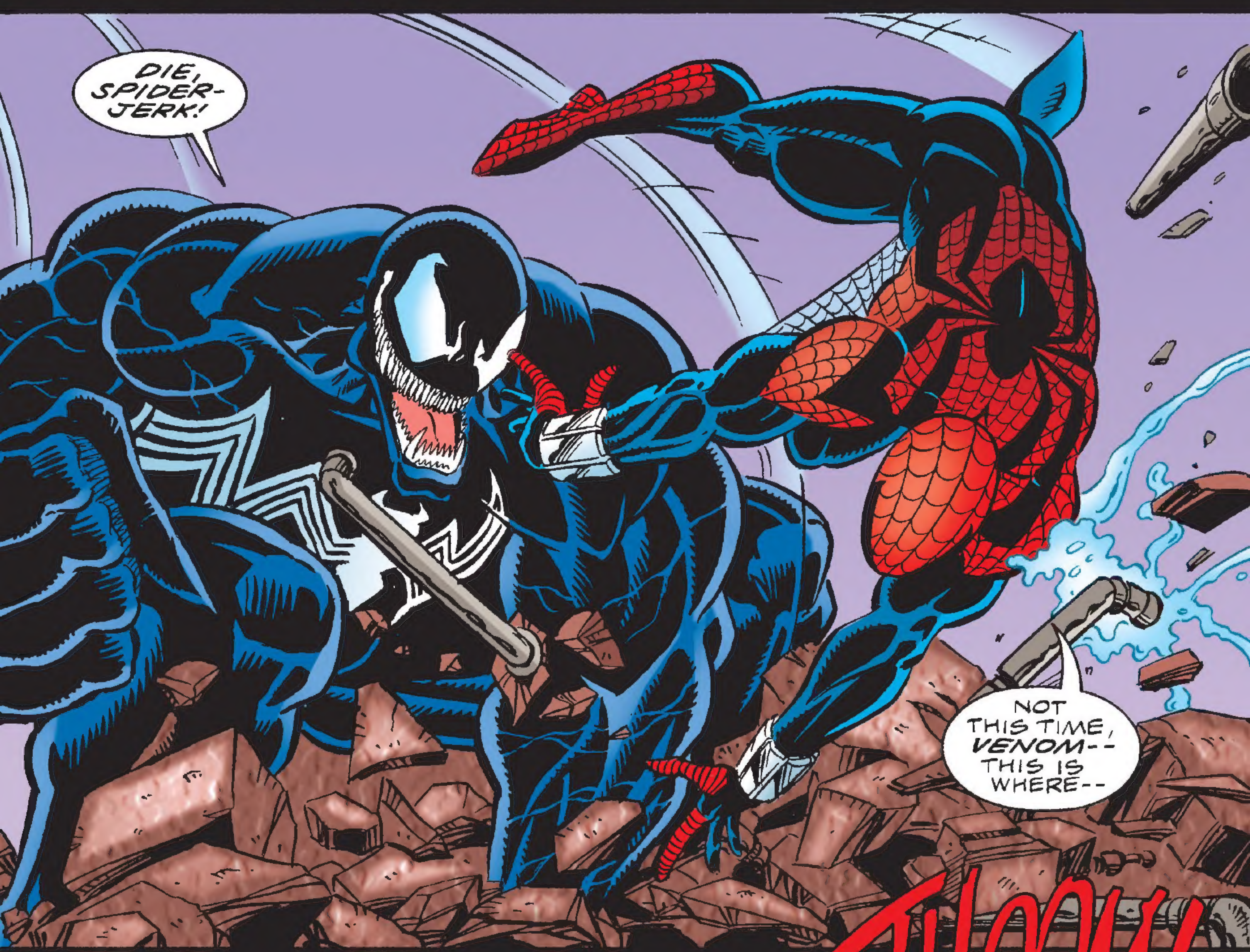
NO! I MEAN HE'S THROWING SPIDER-MAN AROUND LIKE A RAG DOLL!





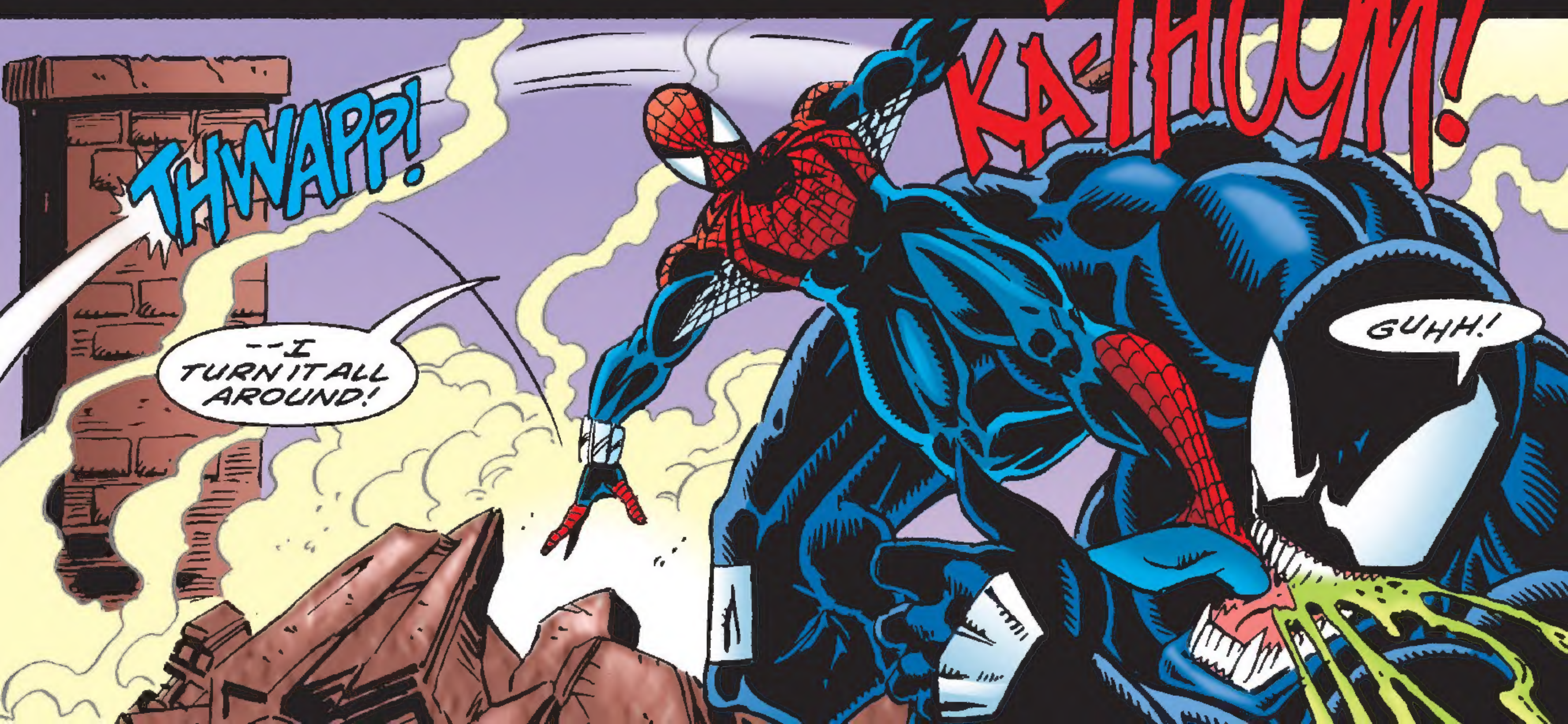
I'M NOT
REALLY
LYING HERE
DAZED...

... I'M
CONSERVING
ENERGY AND
DEVISING STRAT-
EGY!
YEAH,
THAT'S
IT.



DIE,
SPIDER-
JERK!

NOT
THIS TIME,
VENOM--
THIS IS
WHERE--

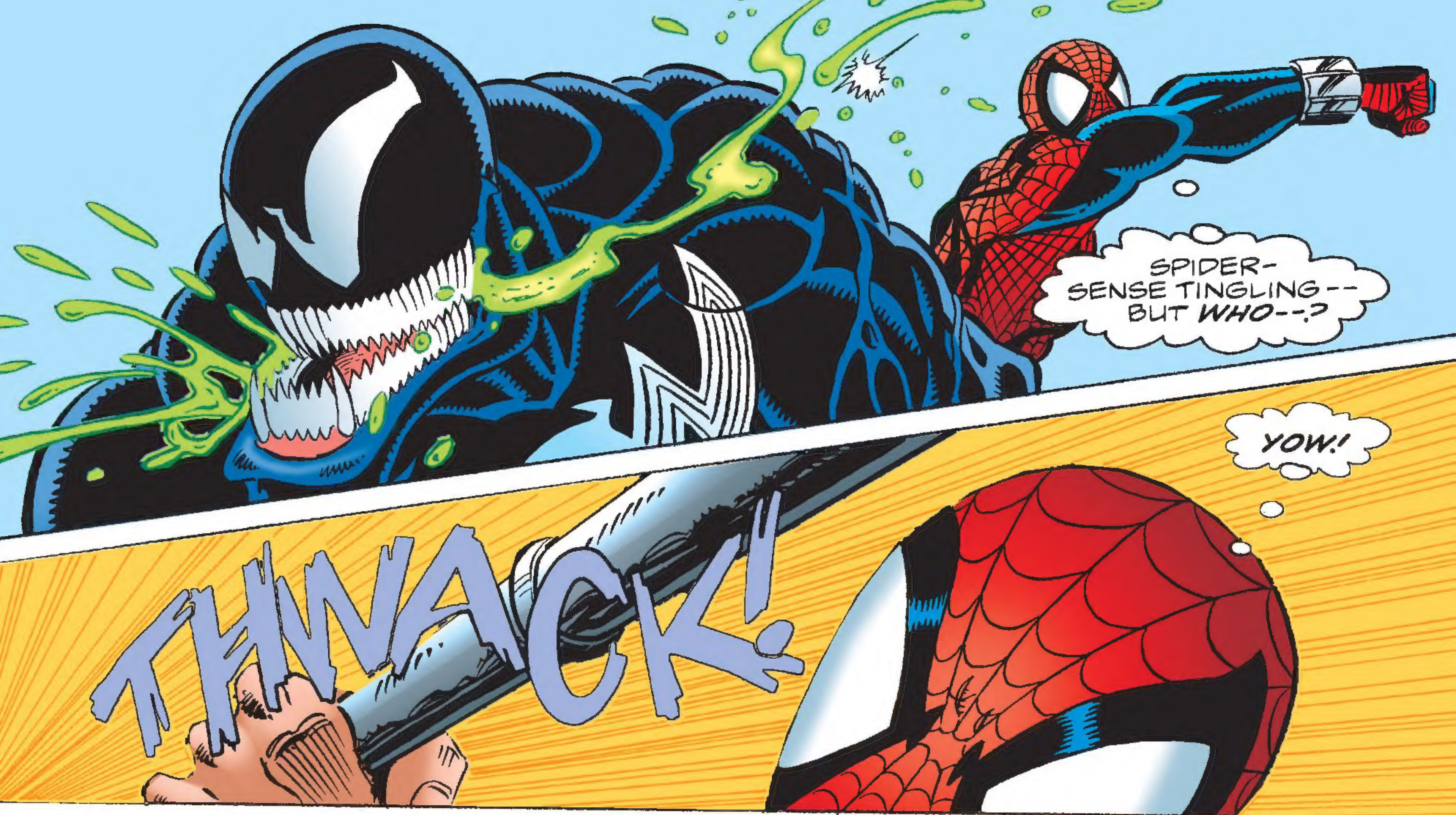


THWAPP!

KA-THOOM!

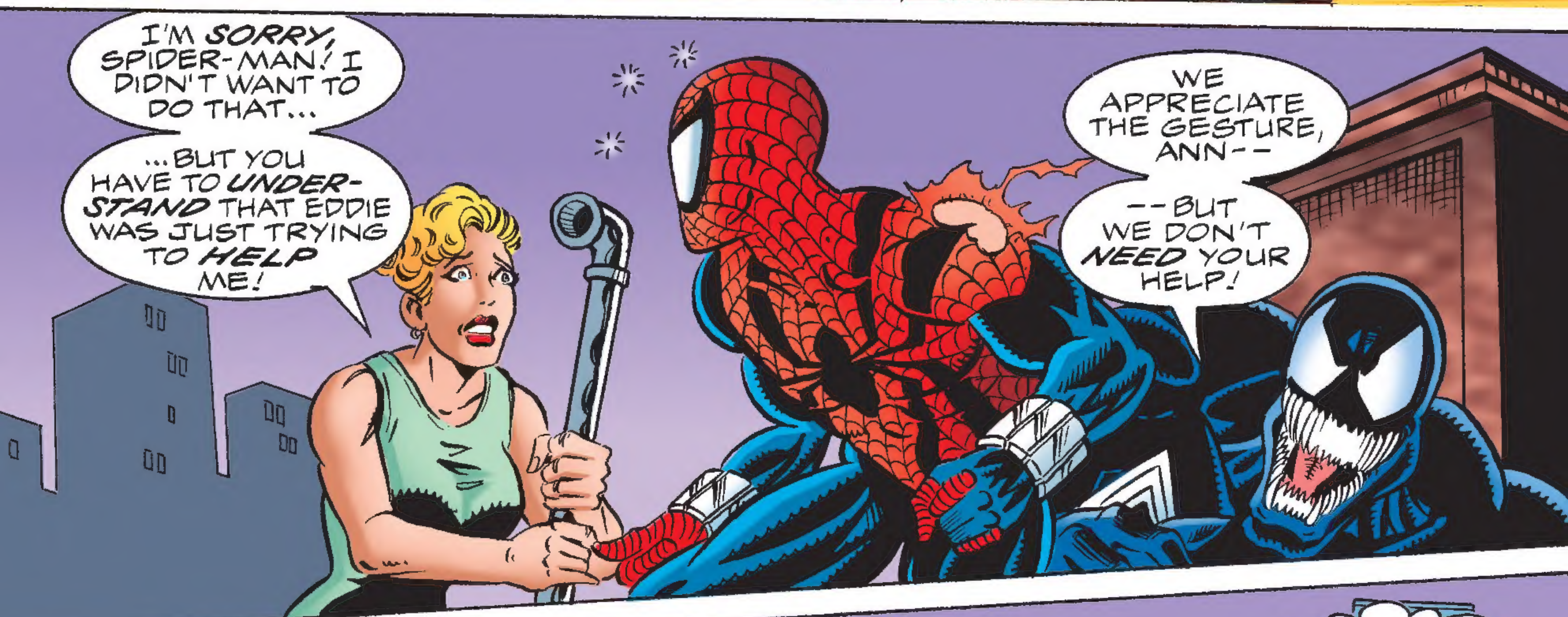
--I
TURN IT ALL
AROUND!

GUHH!



SPIDER-
SENSE TINGLING--
BUT WHO--?

YOW!



I'M SORRY,
SPIDER-MAN! I
DIDN'T WANT TO
DO THAT...

...BUT YOU
HAVE TO UNDER-
STAND THAT EDDIE
WAS JUST TRYING
TO HELP
ME!

WE
APPRECIATE
THE GESTURE,
ANN--

--BUT
WE DON'T
NEED YOUR
HELP!



SPIDER-MAN
HAS NEVER BEEN
A MATCH FOR US!
HE ONLY WON
BEFORE BY
TRICKERY--

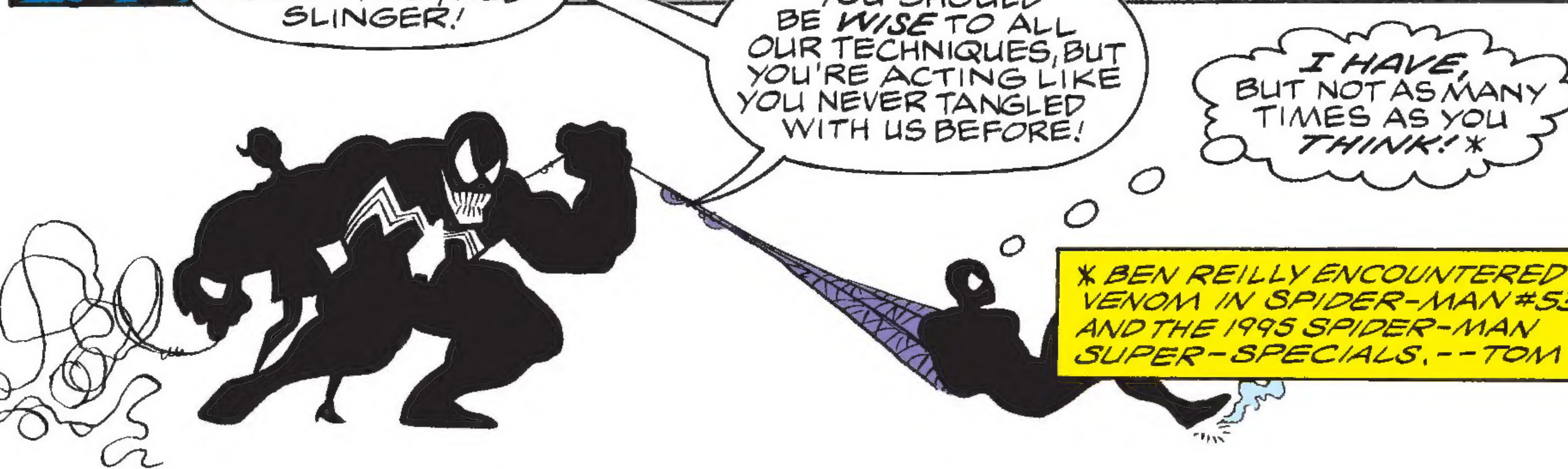
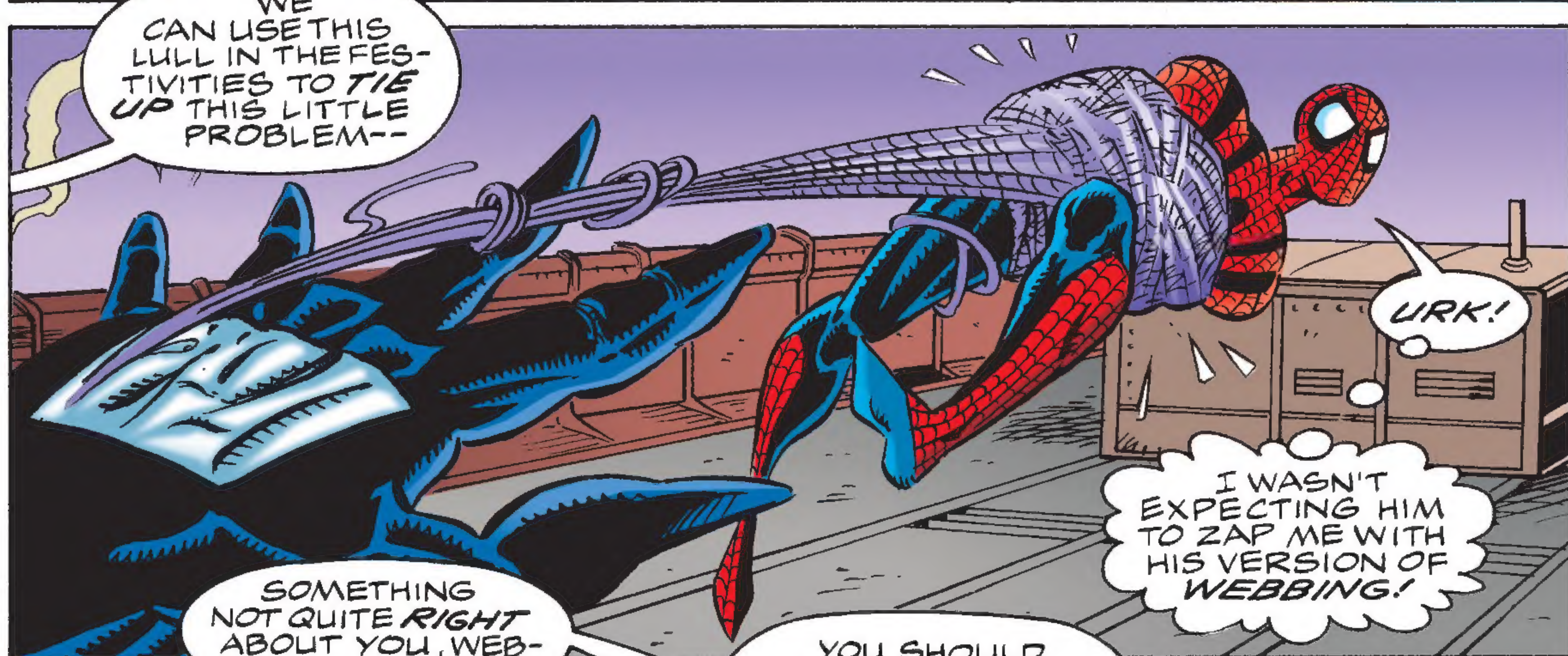
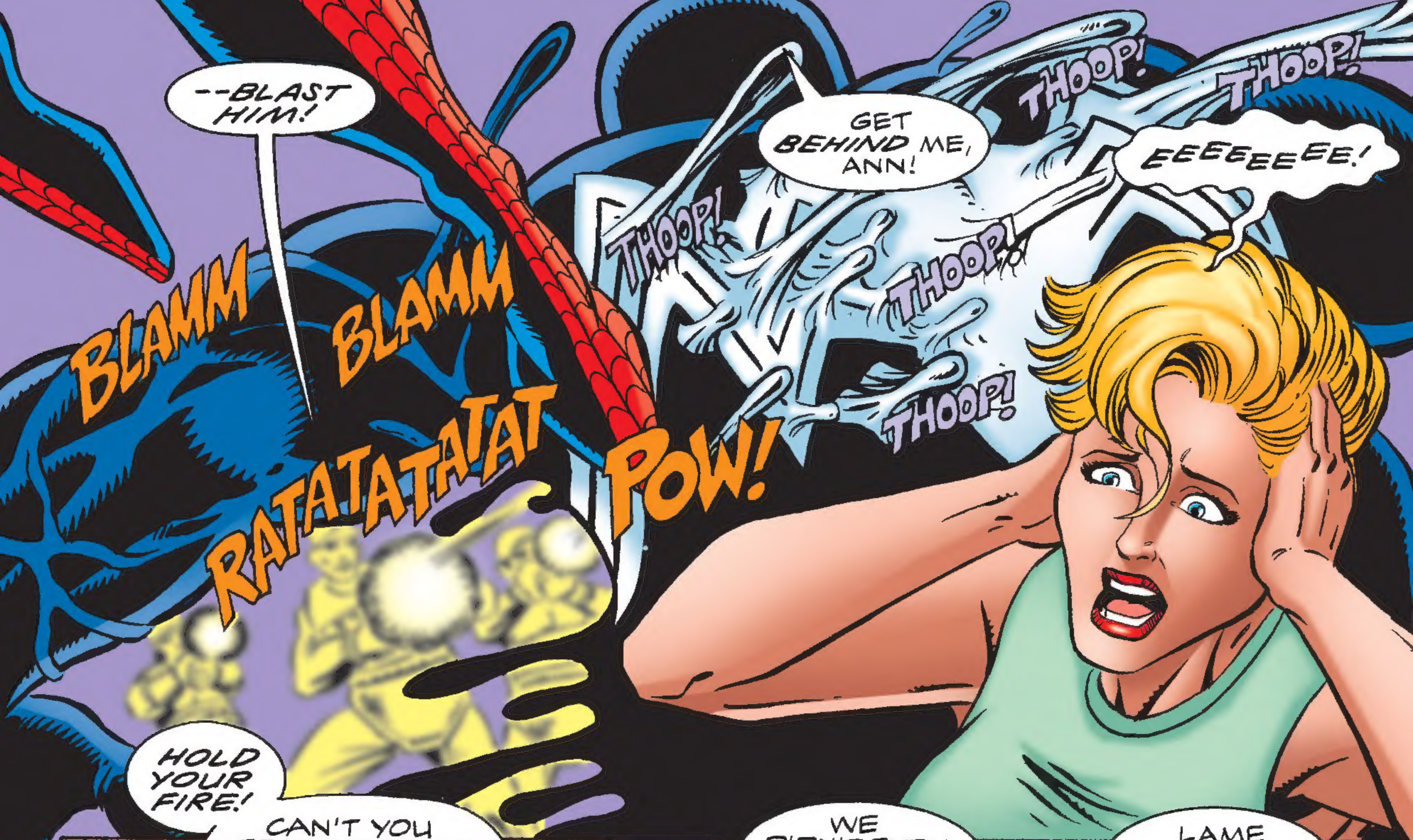
--AND NOW
WE KNOW ALL
HIS TRICKS!

ALL MY
CLONE'S
TRICKS--

--BUT
NONE OF
MINE!

STOP
IT! BOTH OF
YOU!!!

WE'VE
GOT HIM
NOW--!



A comic book page featuring Spider-Man and Venom. The scene is set on a rooftop with a brick wall and city buildings in the background. Spider-Man is shown in three different poses: being held by Venom, looking over a ledge, and hanging upside down. Venom is depicted as a large, blue, muscular figure with a white spider emblem on his chest and a wide, toothy grin. The page is divided into four panels by vertical lines. The first panel shows Spider-Man being held by Venom. The second panel shows Spider-Man looking over a ledge. The third panel shows Spider-Man hanging upside down. The fourth panel shows Spider-Man hanging upside down with a thought bubble.

BUT HEY,
WHY LOOK A GIFT
HORSE IN THE
MOUTH?

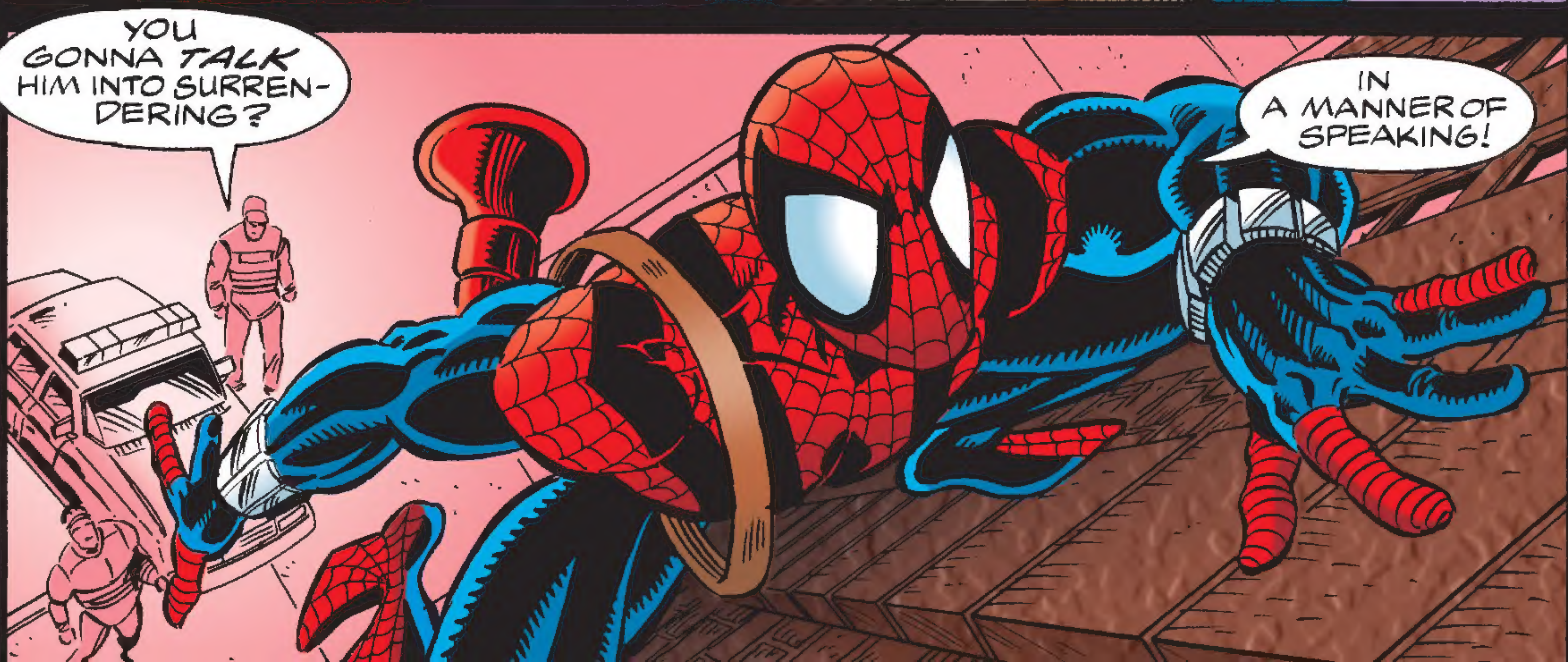
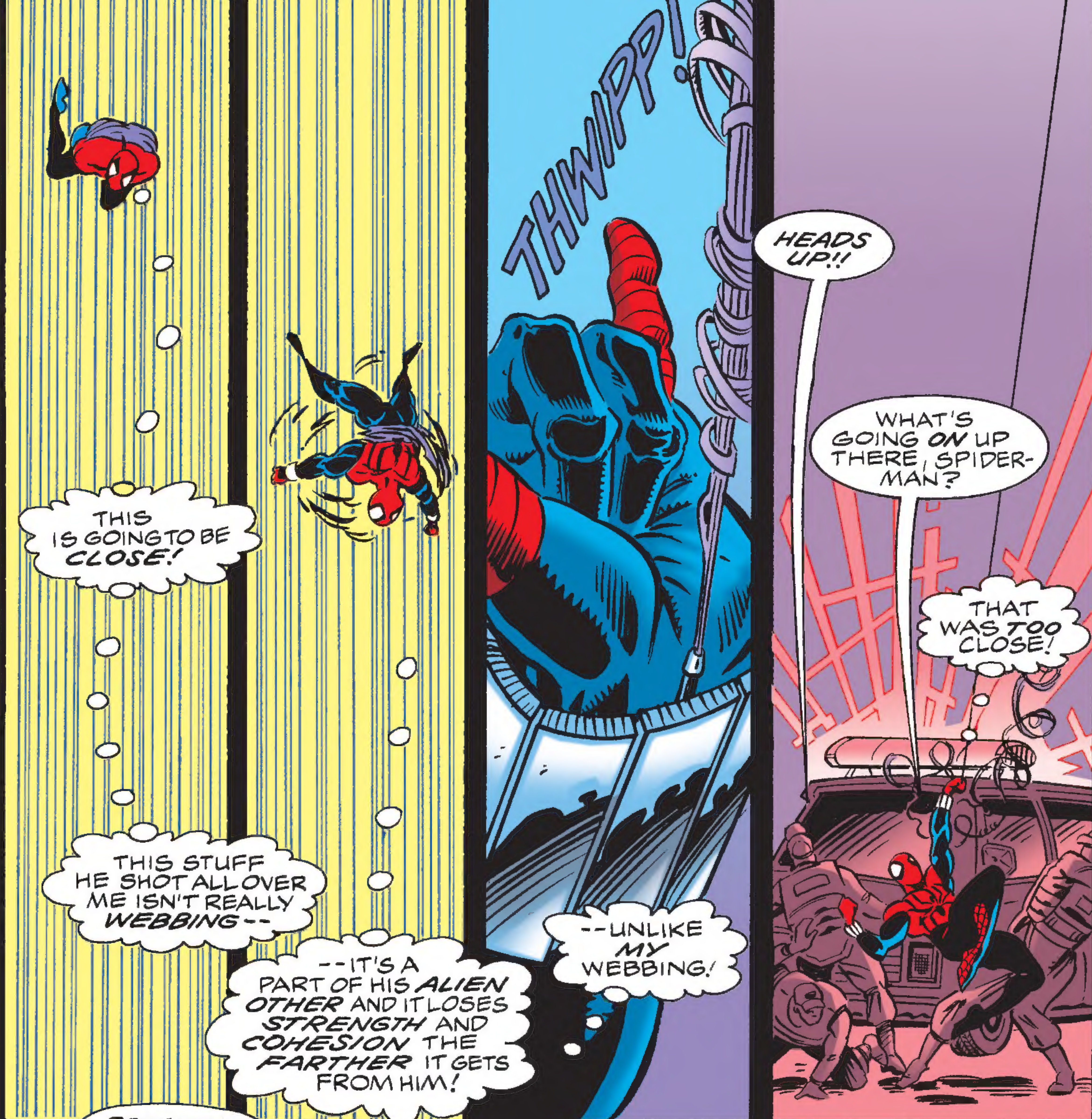
THIS
IS FOR RUINING
MY LIFE, SPIDER-
MAN!

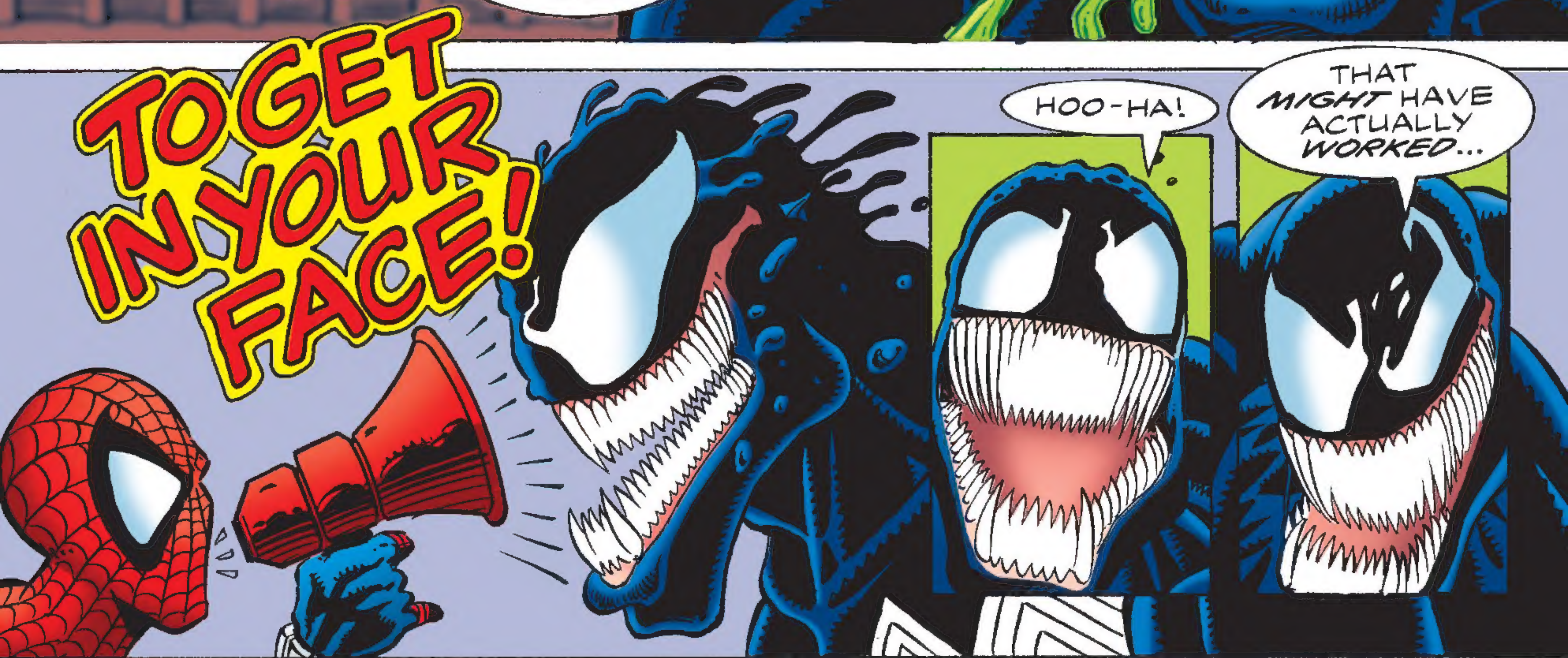
I
MAY NOT
EAT YOUR
BRAINS--

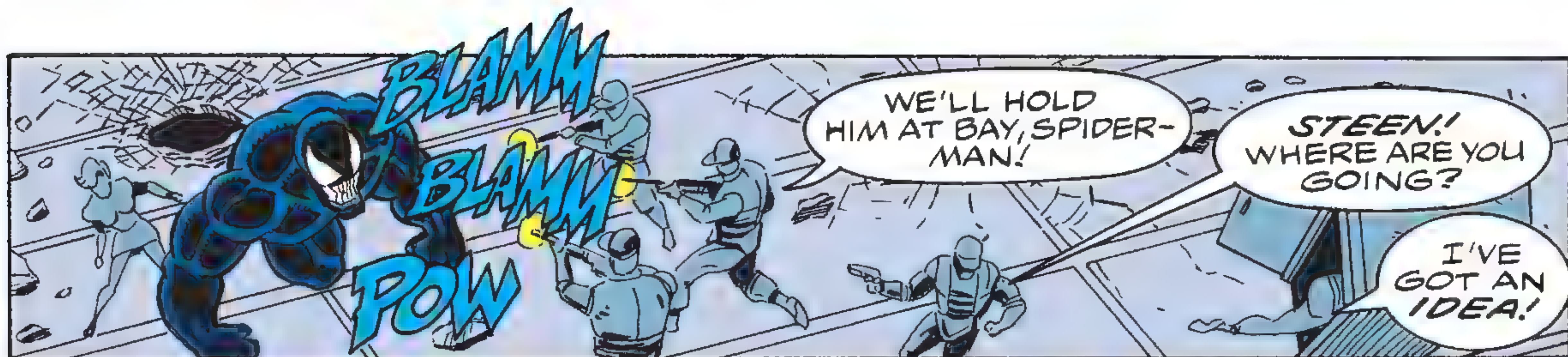
--BUT
THE *WORMS*
CERTAINLY
WILL!

I'LL
BE *BACK*,
VENOM!

I HOPE!







WE'LL HOLD HIM AT BAY, SPIDER-MAN!

STEEN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I'VE GOT AN IDEA!



STICKS AND STONES CAN'T BREAK OUR BONES...

...AND BULLETS ARE EQUALLY INEFFECTUAL!



CEASE FIRE!

DON'T SHOOT HIM! YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM!

NO SENSE TRYING TO DEAL RATIONALLY WITH THE BRIBEMONGERS IN BLUE!

THEY ARE THE CORRUPT OPPRESSORS OF THE INNOCENT!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE INCLUDING YOURSELF AS ONE OF THE INNOCENT, VENOM!

THE LAST TIME I LOOKED, YOU WERE UP TO YOUR NECK IN CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PSYCHOSIS!

THAT'S A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS, SPIDER-MAN--!



IF WE WERE
TRULY *INSANE*,
WE WOULDN'T
BE *COMPETENT*
TO STAND
TRIAL--

YOU,
ON THE
OTHER
HAND--

WHOMP

--AND WE
WOULDN'T BE
RESPONSIBLE!!

--ARE RESPON-
SIBLE FOR
TERMINATING
MY CAREER AS
A JOURNALIST.!!

OOOOOF!

YOU WERE
A MENACE
AS A
REPORTER!

NOT BAD, SPIDER-
TWERP-- WE ALMOST
FELT THAT!

BUT NOT
AS MUCH AS
YOU'RE GOING
TO FEEL--

WHAPP

--THIS!

EEEEYOW!

KA-SHOOOM

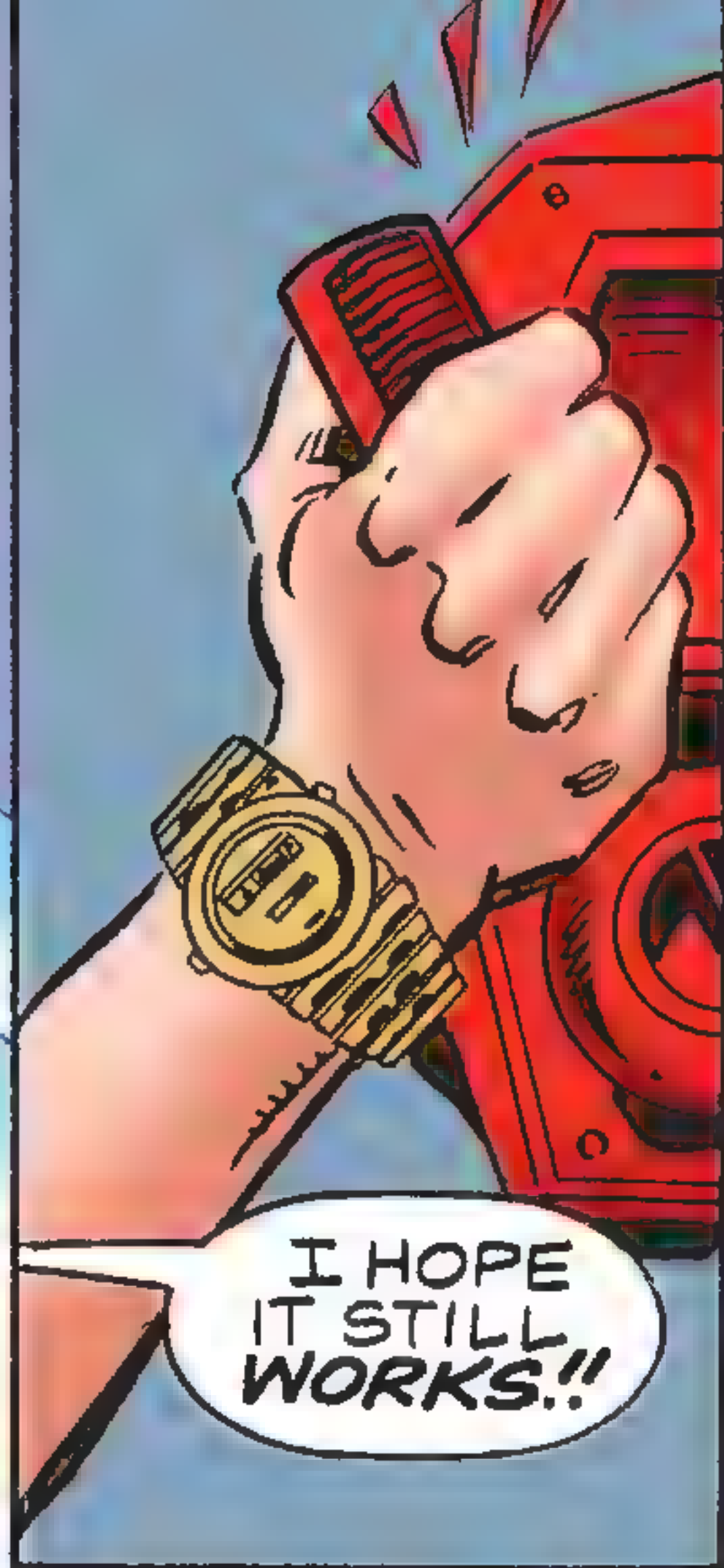


DOWNSTAIRS...

THAT SWITCH IS DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE...



THERE IT IS!



I HOPE IT STILL WORKS!!

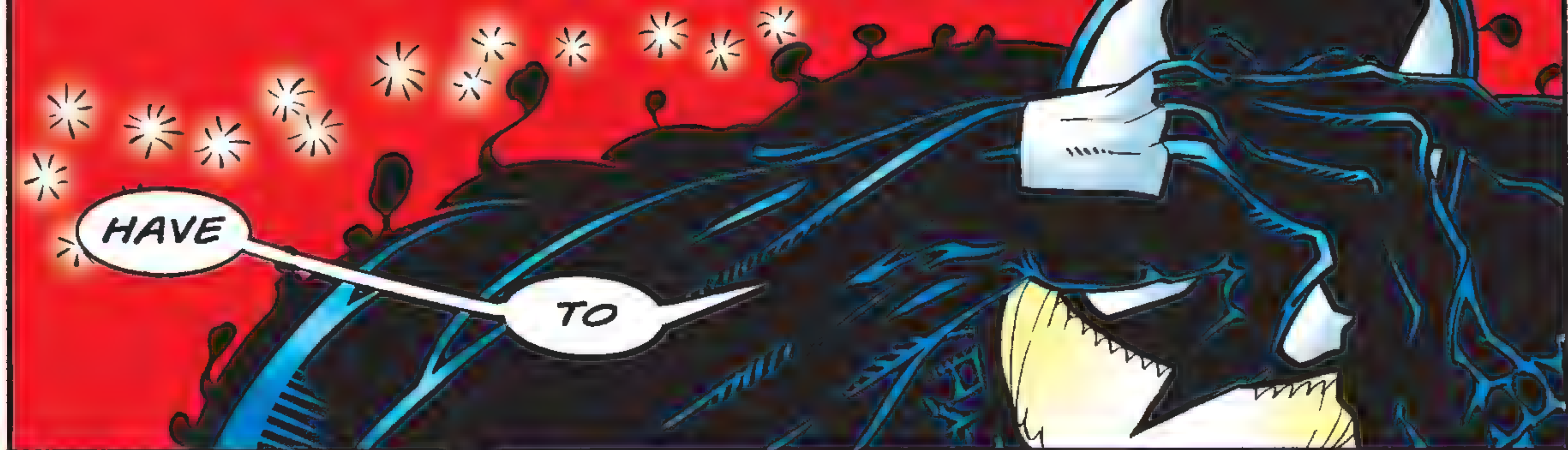


ARRRRRRRGH!



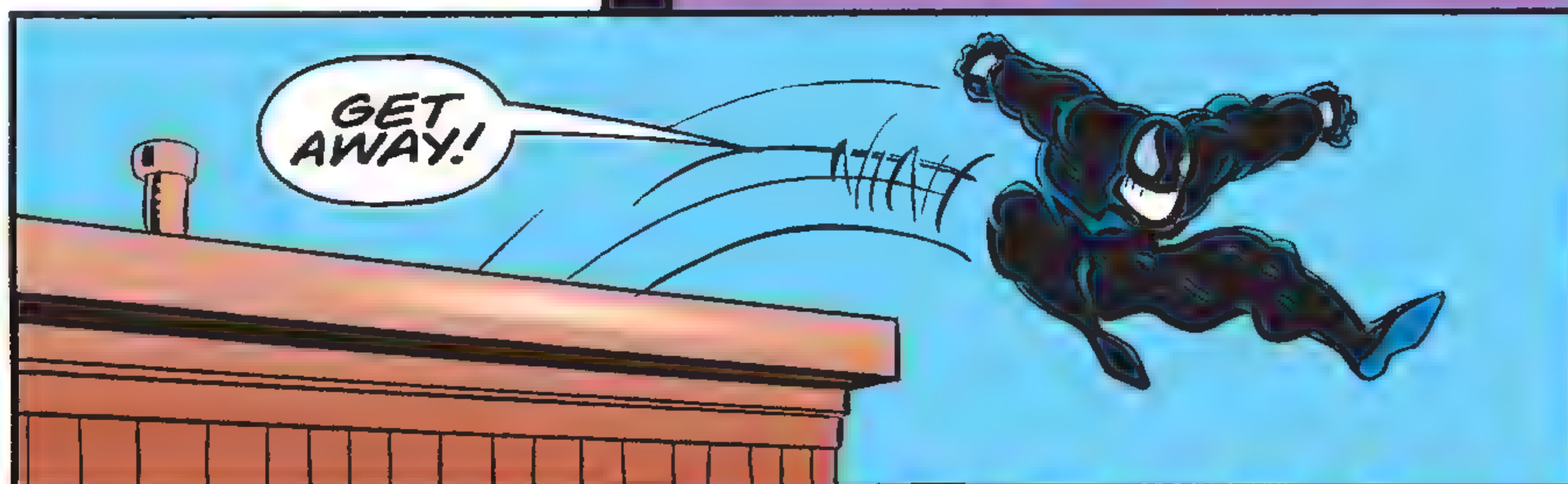
MAN! THAT'S MORE PAINFUL THAN MEGADETH AT CLOSE RANGE!!





HAVE

TO



GET
AWAY!



HAVE TO GET
OUT OF THE
"CONE" OF THE
SOUND
WAVES!

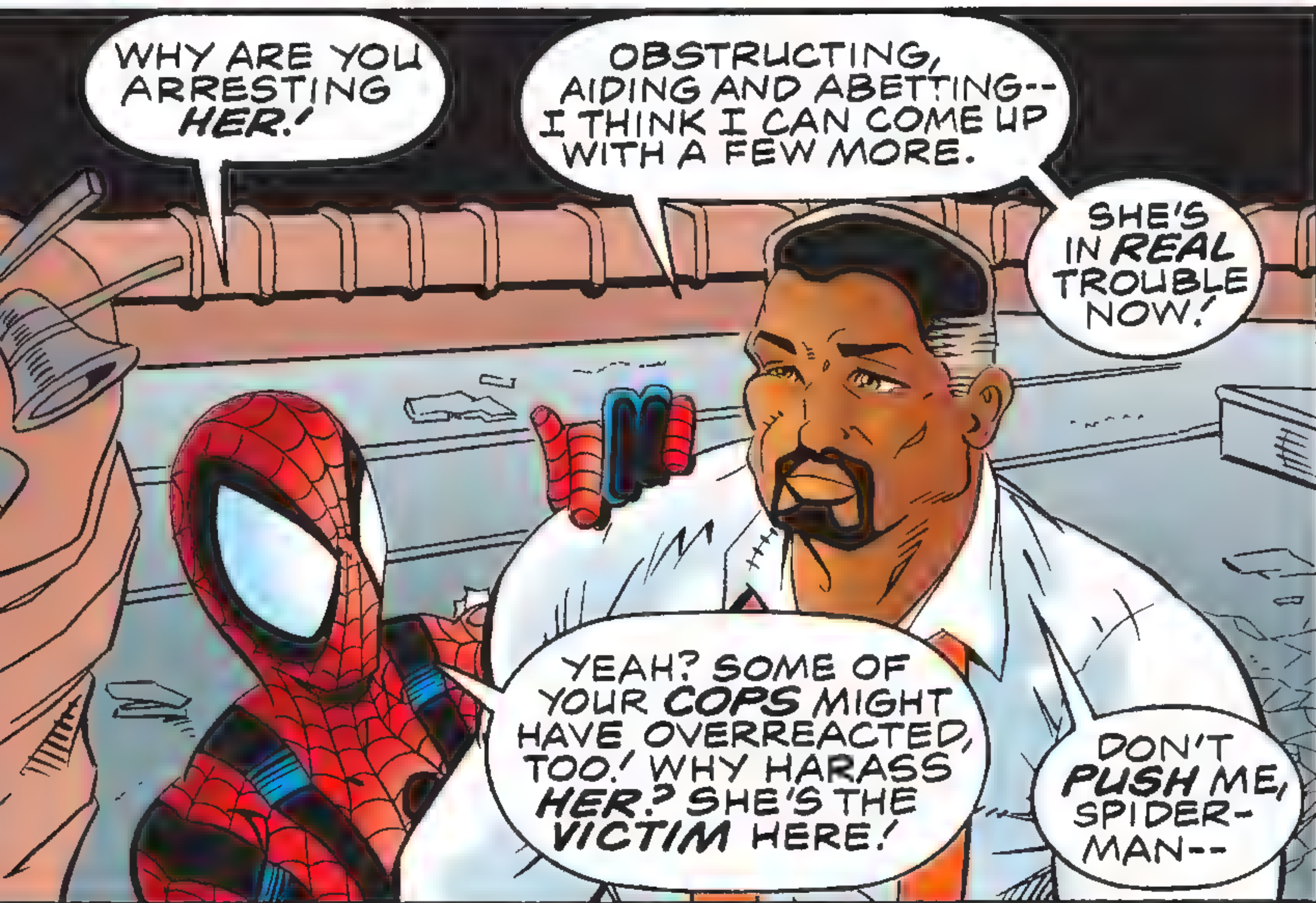
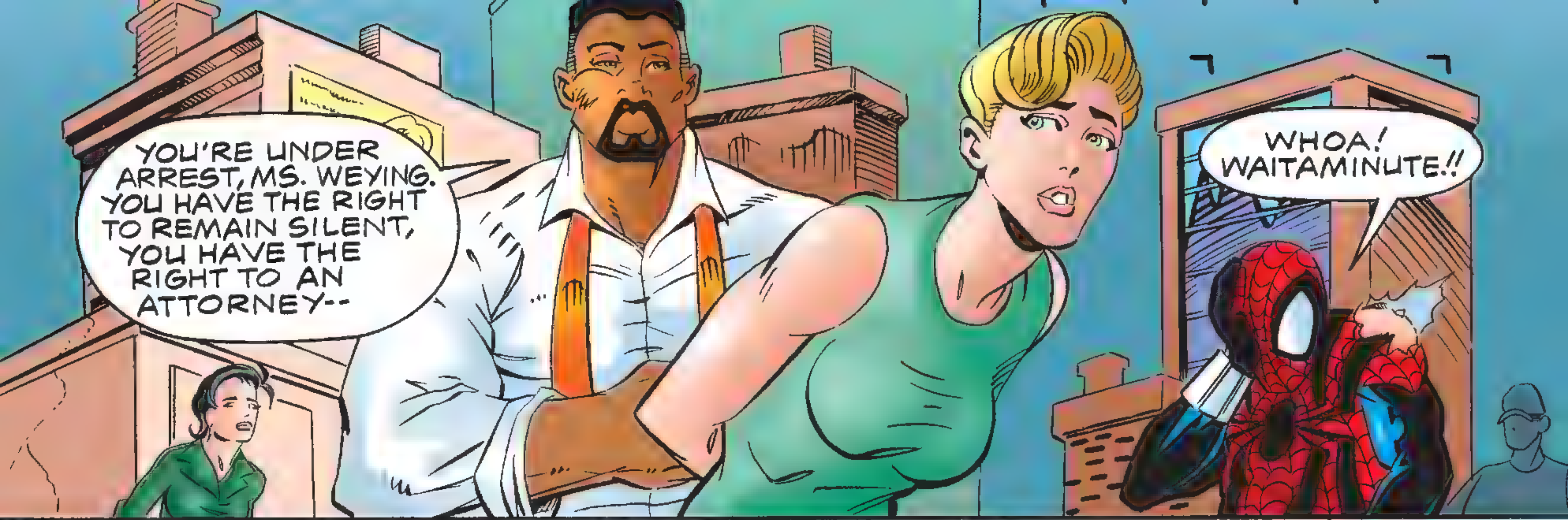
KATHOOM

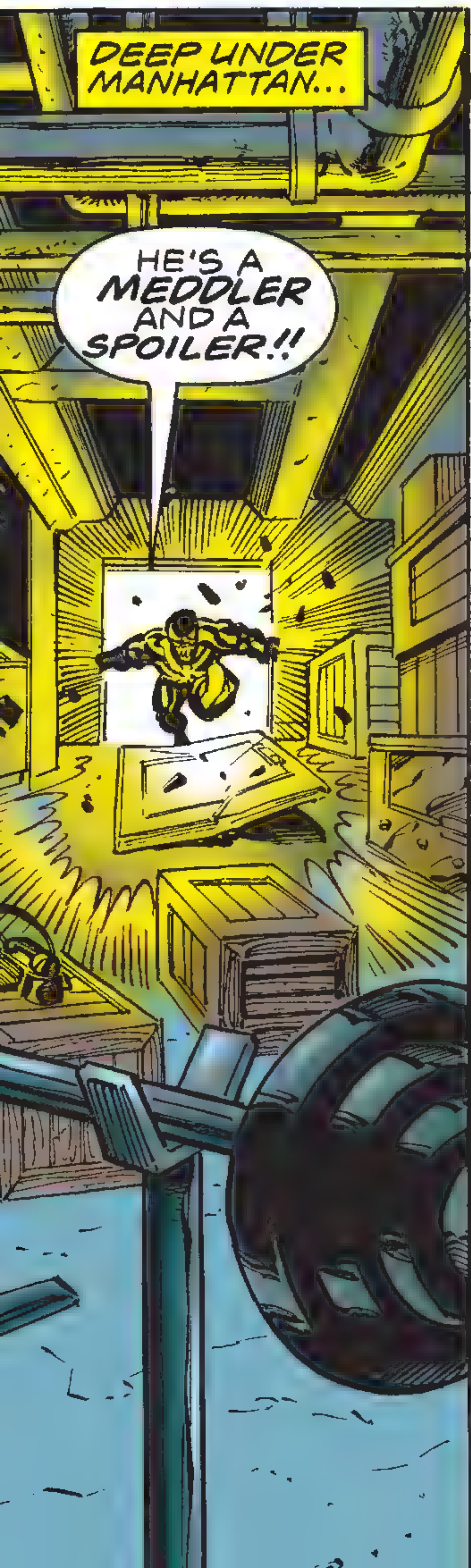
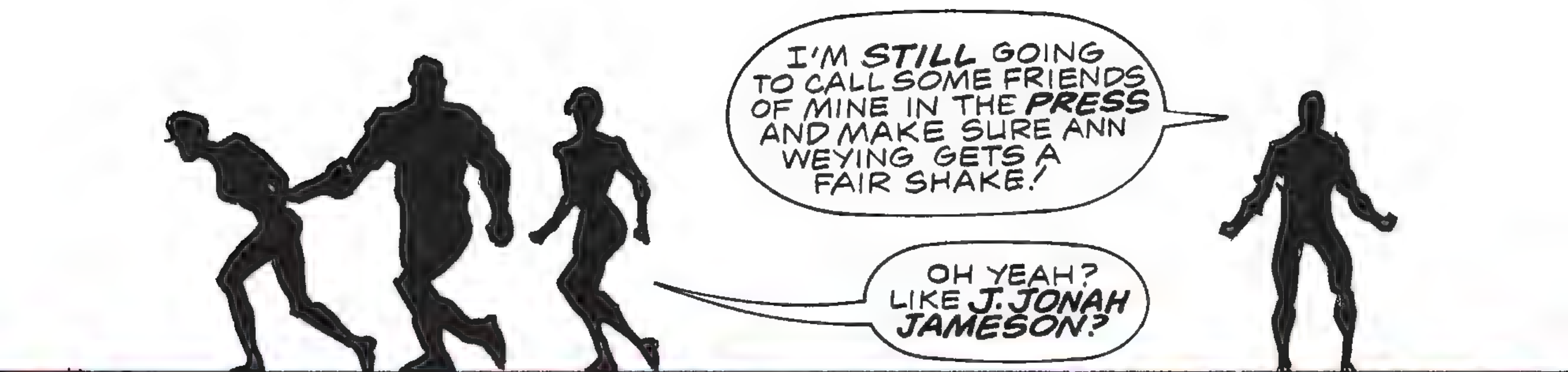
TAKE
HIM
DOWN!!



YOU HAVEN'T
SEEN THE **LAST**
OF US, SPIDER-
MAN!!

YOUR PREVIOUS
SINS WERE BAD
ENOUGH, BUT NOW
YOU'VE COME
BETWEEN ME
AND **ANN!**





AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

CLARK, I
NEED TO SPEAK
TO YOU IN
PRIVATE!

RIGHT.
HOGARTH, YOU
START THE
PAPERWORK.

BOOKING HER ON
OBSTRUCTING AND
ABETTING, RIGHT?

YOU
GOTTA
SIGN IT,
CLARK.

GIMME A
MINUTE.

CLARK
&
STEEN

I'M A
LITTLE
STEAMED.

I HAD TO
BACK YOUR PLAY
FOR POLICE
SOLIDARITY, BUT
I WANT TO KNOW
WHY YOU'RE
RUNNING THIS
TRIP ON WEYING!

I WANT
TO NAIL
VENOM--

--AND ANN WEYING
IS THE **KEY** TO THAT!

THIS TIME, WE
WEREN'T PREPARED--
BUT I'VE ALREADY
PUT IN A CALL TO
RAVENCROFT AND **DR.
KAFKA** IS SENDING
DOWN SOME SPECIAL
EQUIPMENT!

I WANT TO BE
CHIEF SOMEDAY, AND
THE CREDIT FOR
BAGGING VENOM
WILL GO A LONG WAY
TOWARDS THAT GOAL!

WHAT ABOUT MY
PHONE CALL! I AM
ENTITLED TO ONE!

I DON'T KNOW IF
THE LAND-LINES HAVE
BEEN RECONNECTED,
BUT I'LL FIND OUT
FOR YOU...

106 GREEN
107 BERG
208 JOE
209 ROD
371 SUE
210 LUC

IN VENOM'S
HIDEOUT...

HE'S A
MENACE!

WE'D BE
DOING THE
REST OF THE
WORLD A FAVOR!
WE'D BE--

BRRIING

I KNOW THIS NUMBER--
AND A LOT OF OTHER THINGS
FROM WHEN WE WERE
MELED THROUGH YOUR
OTHER!*

*LAST ISSUE.
--TOM

WHA--?

NOBODY
HAS THIS
NUMBER!!

UNLESS IT IS A
REAL CALL FOR THE
SWITCHING TERMINAL
FOR THE SUBWAY
SYSTEM, WHICH IS
THE LINE WE
TAPPED INTO--

BUT WE CHOSE
THAT LINE BECAUSE
THAT WHOLE SECTION
HAD BEEN CLOSED
DOWN!! WHO--??

I'M UNDER ARREST AND IN
TROUBLE, BUT I WANT YOU TO
PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T
COME DOWN HERE AND BUST
ME OUT AGAIN!!

EDDIE?
THIS IS
ANN--

HEADS
UP! IT'S
THE FOURTH
ESTATE!

TRISH TILBY
JUST SHOWED
UP WITH HER
CAMERA CREW!

SOME APPLE-
POLISHING BRASS-
HAT WALTZED 'EM
IN RIGHT THROUGH
THE FRONT DOOR!

OH NO!

TURN THAT CAMERA **OFF!**
WHO GAVE YOU PERMIS-
SION TO SHOOT IN HERE?

WHAT HAVE
YOU GOT TO
HIDE,
DETECTIVE
STEEN?

DON'T THE
PEOPLE HAVE A
RIGHT TO **KNOW**
THE **FACTS?**

WHAT?

WHO LET
WEYING MAKE
A PHONE
CALL?!

GET HER
AWAY FROM
THAT
PHONE!!

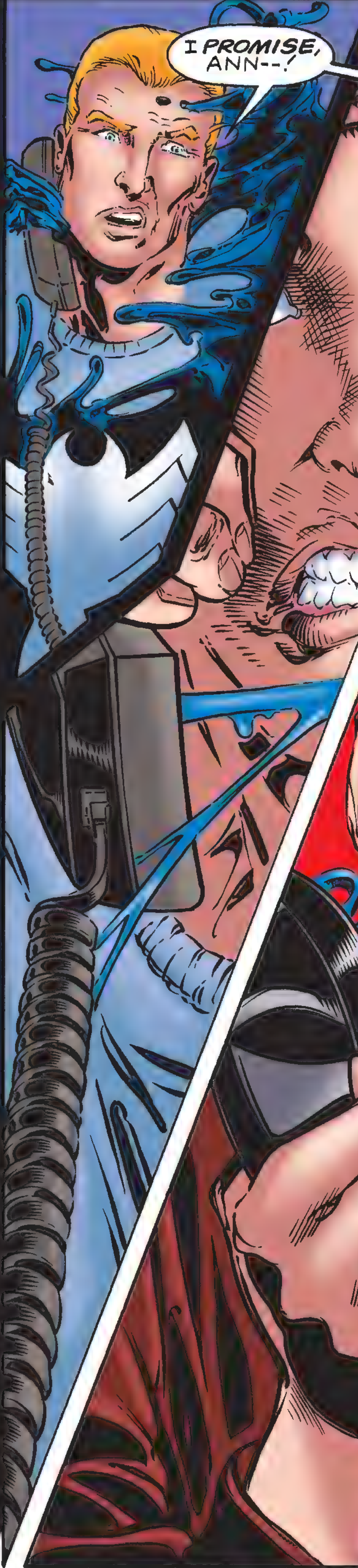
GET
THIS ALL
ON TAPE,
BOYS!!

SHE HAS THE **RIGHT**
TO MAKE A CALL! ARE
YOU **DENYING** HER
THAT RIGHT? IF SO--

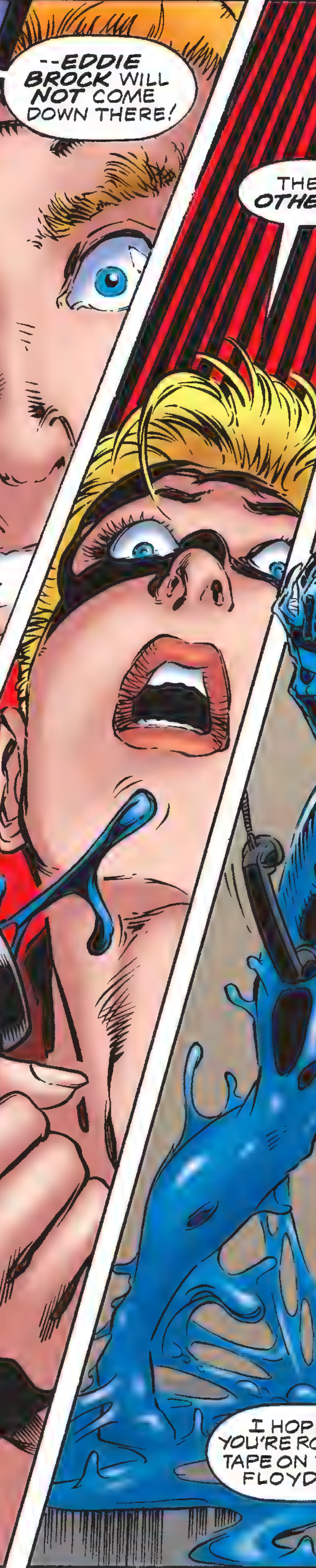
I DON'T
HAVE MUCH
TIME, EDDIE!

YOU **PROMISE**
ME RIGHT THIS
SECOND THAT
YOU WILL NOT
COME DOWN
HERE!!!

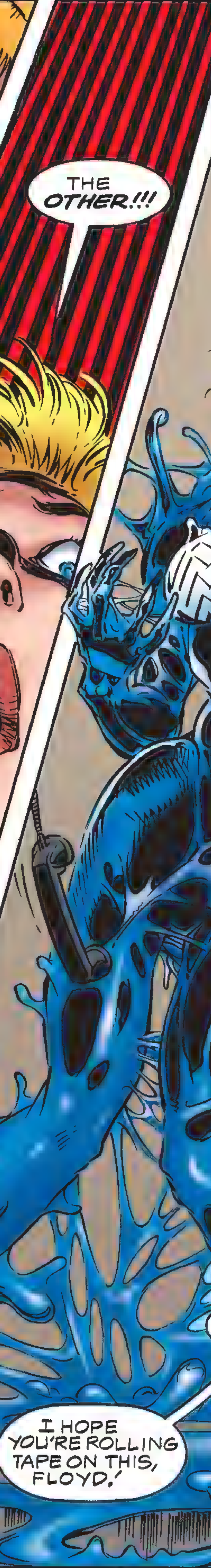
PROMISE,
EDDIE!



I PROMISE,
ANN---



--EDDIE
BROCK WILL
NOT COME
DOWN THERE!



THE
OTHER!!!



GOOD
LORD!

I HOPE
YOU'RE ROLLING
TAPE ON THIS,
FLOYD.

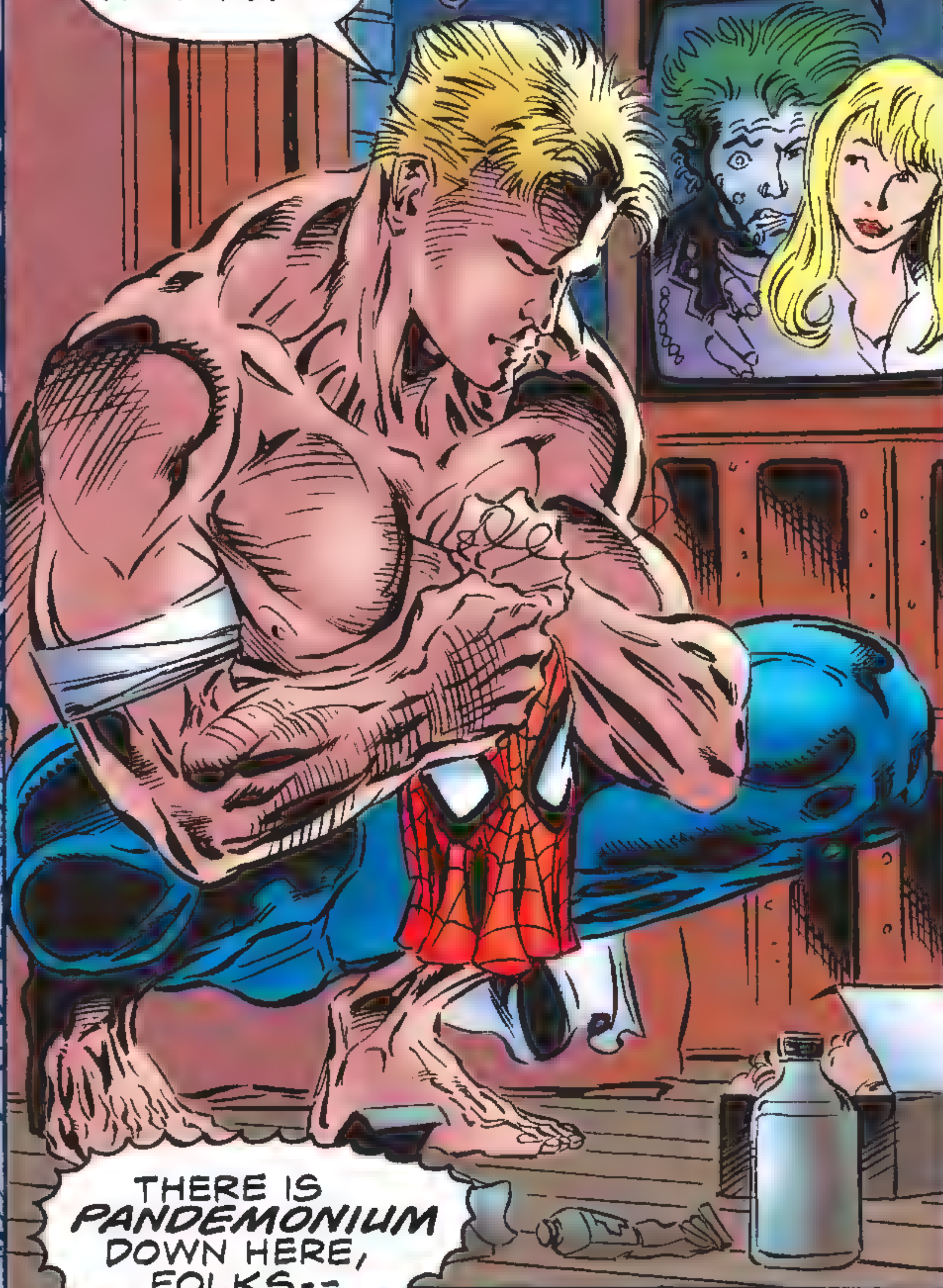
MEANWHILE,
DOWNTOWN...

I, LIKE, KNOW
WE'RE LIKE FROM
TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS,
BUT, LIKE, WHAT
DIFFERENCE DOES IT
LIKE MAKE IF, LIKE,
WE'RE IN LOVE,
YOU KNOW?

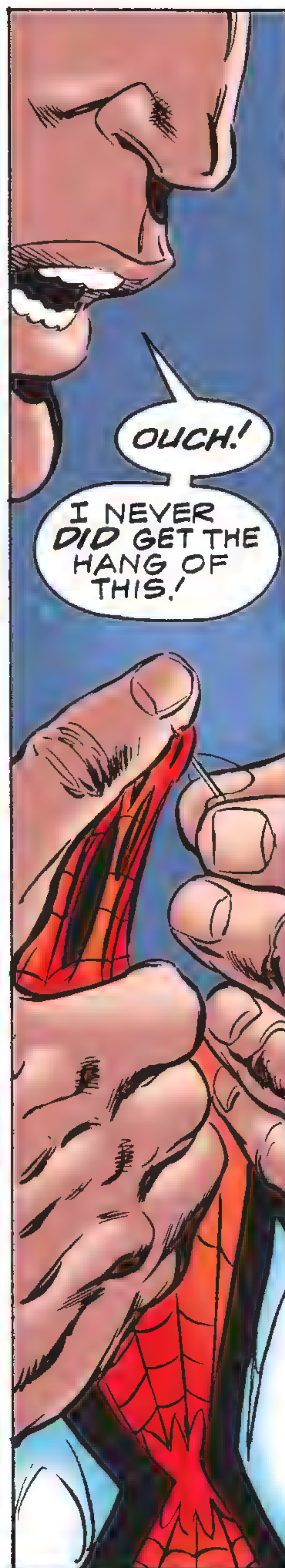
I CAN REMEMBER
HAVING TO DO THIS
UP IN THE ATTIC
AT AUNT MAY'S
HOUSE.

IT SEEMS
LIKE ONLY
YESTERDAY--

MAYBE IF
YOU CHANGED
YOUR NAME
FROM DOG
VOMIT--



THERE IS
PANDEMONIUM
DOWN HERE,
FOLKS--

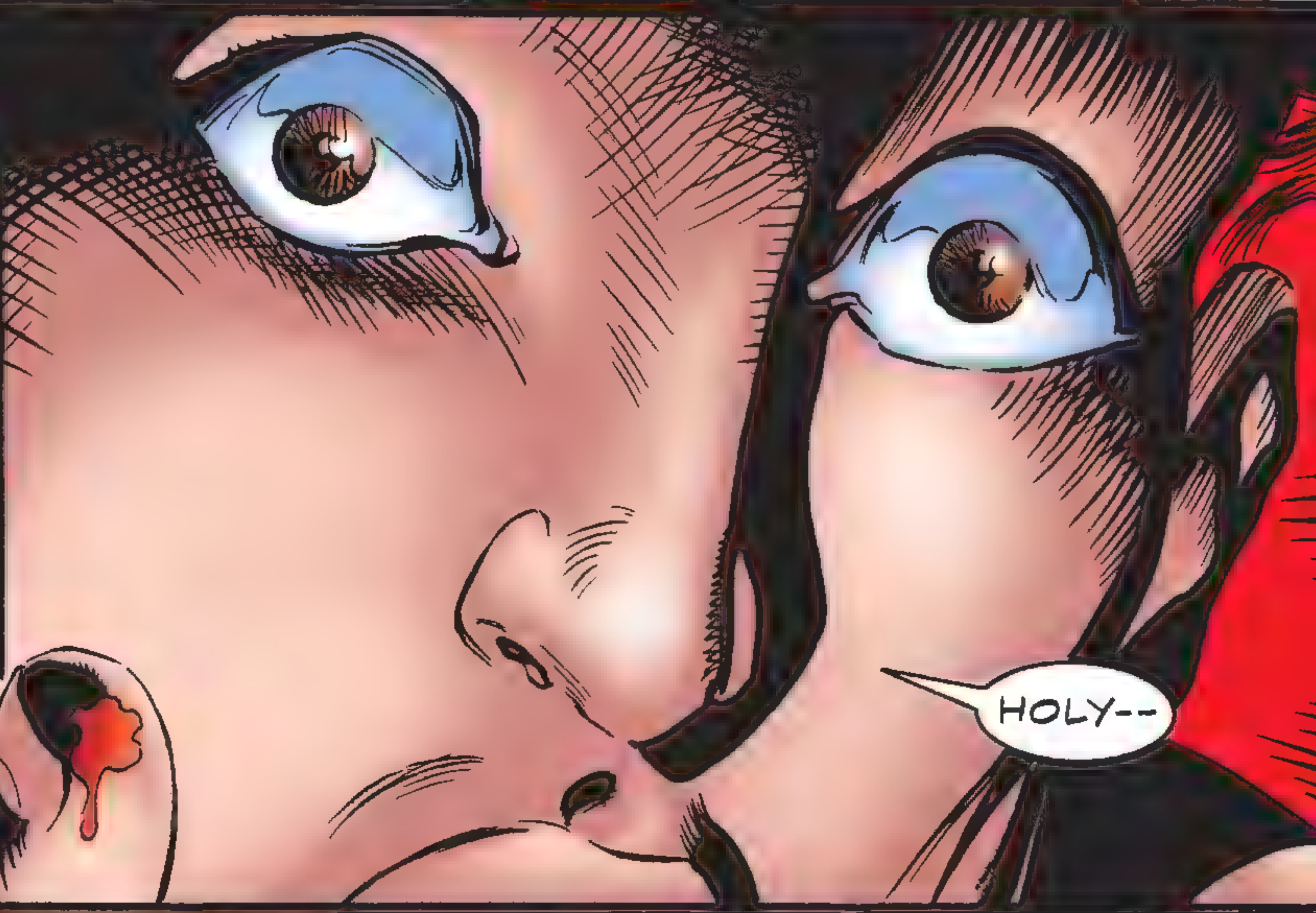
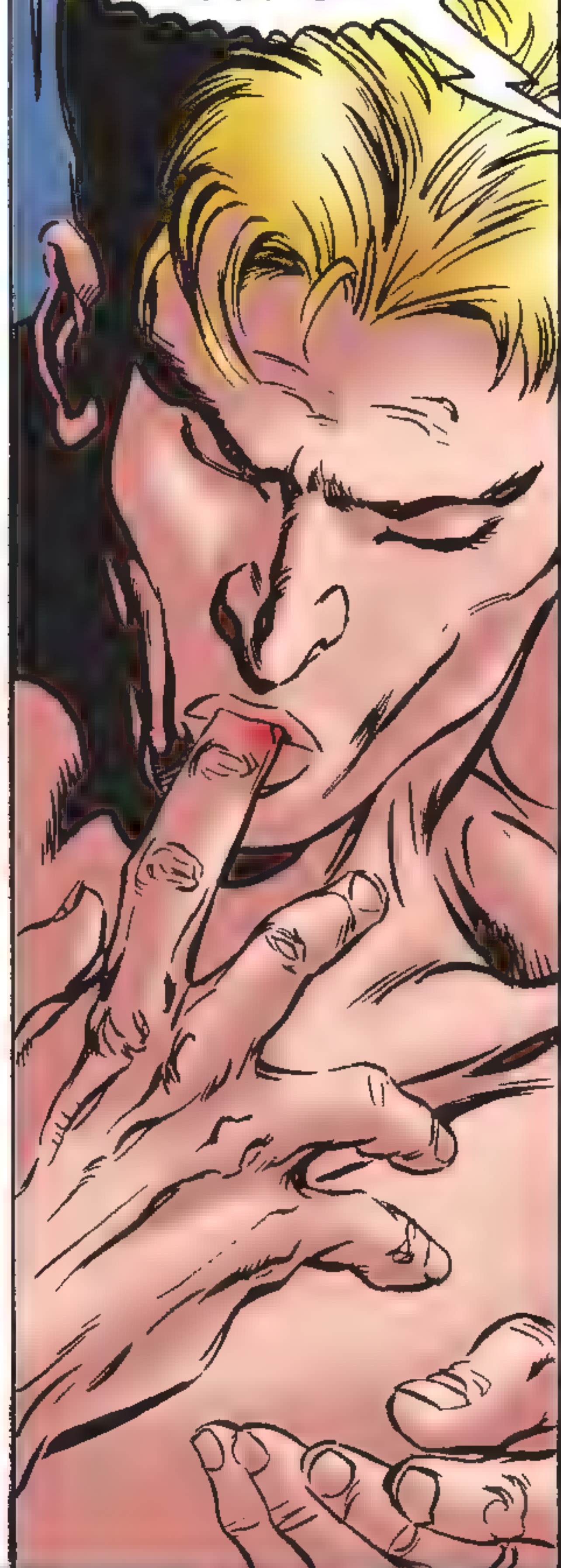


OUCH!

I NEVER
DID GET THE
HANG OF
THIS!

VENOM SURE
HAS IT EASY,
HAVING AN
ALIEN SYMBIOTE
FOR A
COSTUME!

WE INTERRUPT
THIS EPISODE
OF EAST
VILLAGE 10003
TO BRING YOU
THIS SPECIAL
NEWS FLASH
LIVE FROM
POLICE
HEADQUAR-
TERS!!



HOLY--



NEXT • AND FRIGHTENED
• ANN WEYING AWAY!

OCT 17

HYBRID. PHASE TWO: FUSION

SKOLNICK STORY
ZIRCHER PENCILS
ADAMS INKS
NOVAK LETTERS
SMITH COLORS
MALIBU SEPS
BREVOORT EDITS
BUDIANSKY CHIEF

GAME OVER,
Y'ALL... THIS IS AN
EASY X COURT, AND
WE TAKIN' IT!

YEAH? SCREW
YOU, MAN! WE'RE
FINISHIN' OUR
GAME--

DEREK!
DON'T--

YEAH,
"DEREK"...
DON'T.

'LESS YOU
WANNA FIND Y'SELF
IN A WHOLE HEAPIN'
PILE OF \$#X%...

Y'MEAN LIKE
THE ONE I'M
STARIN' AT
RIGHT NOW?

TAKE IT EASY,
ALL OF YOU.

WE DON'T
WANT ANY
TROUBLE--

THEN TELL
YOUR BOY HERE
TO STEP DOWN,
BEFORE I--

UHHFF!

Y'THINK THAT
GANGSTA TALK
GONNA SCARE
US OFF?

IT DON'T
WASH, SEE?
NOW #~X%
OFF!

THA'S IT,
MAN--



DON'T
NOBODY SAY
THIS LITTLE
1X%#@ DI'N'T
AX FOR
THIS--



NO!

IT AIN'T
GONNA
HAPPEN!



AAAAA

YOU BREAKIN'
MY ARM, MAN--
YOU CRAZY?!

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO'S CRAZY,
"MAN"...

...ABOUT TO KILL
SOMEONE OVER A
£@%# BASKETBALL
COURT?!

OVER--UNHH--
TERRITORY,
MAN...



...RESPECT!



THREATENING A
FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD
KID WITH A **GUN** IS
GONNA GET YOU
RESPECT?

WAKE UP,
MAN.

SHOW SOME
RESPECT FOR
YOURSELF
FIRST.

THEN MAYBE
YOU'LL EARN IT
FROM OTHERS.

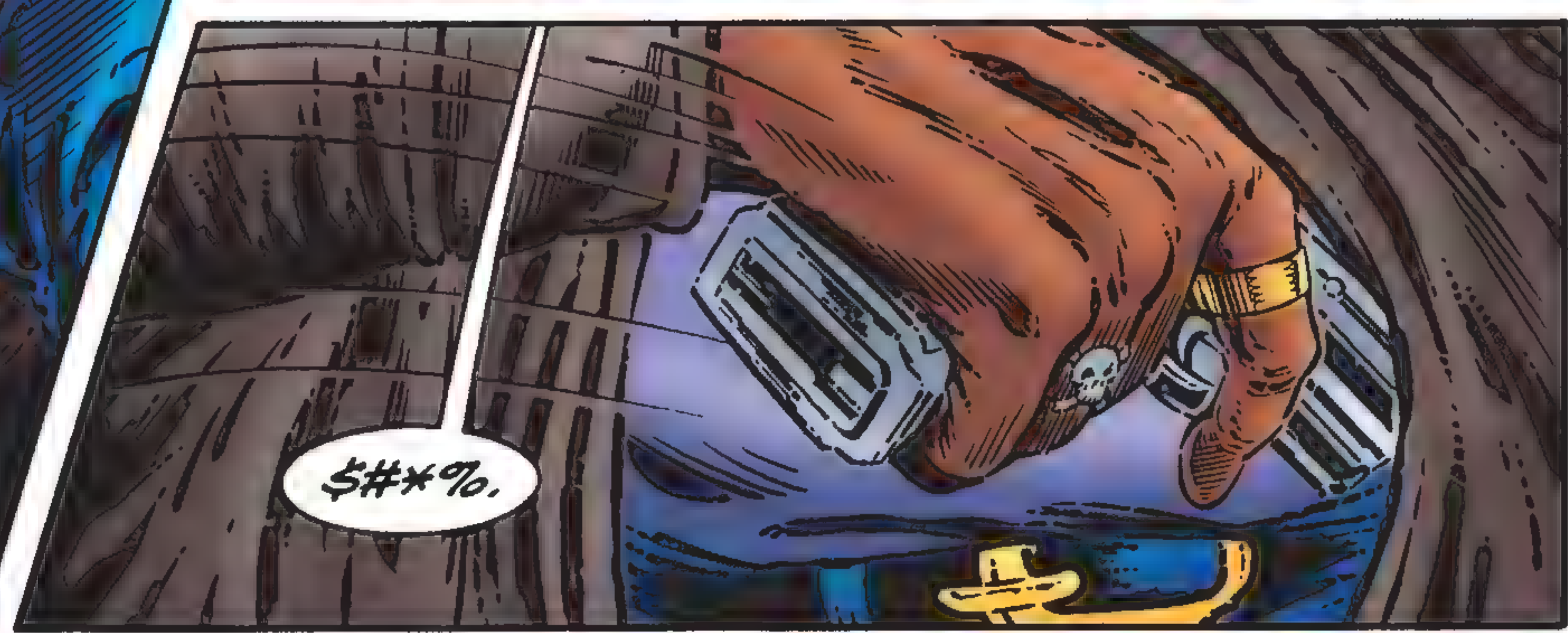
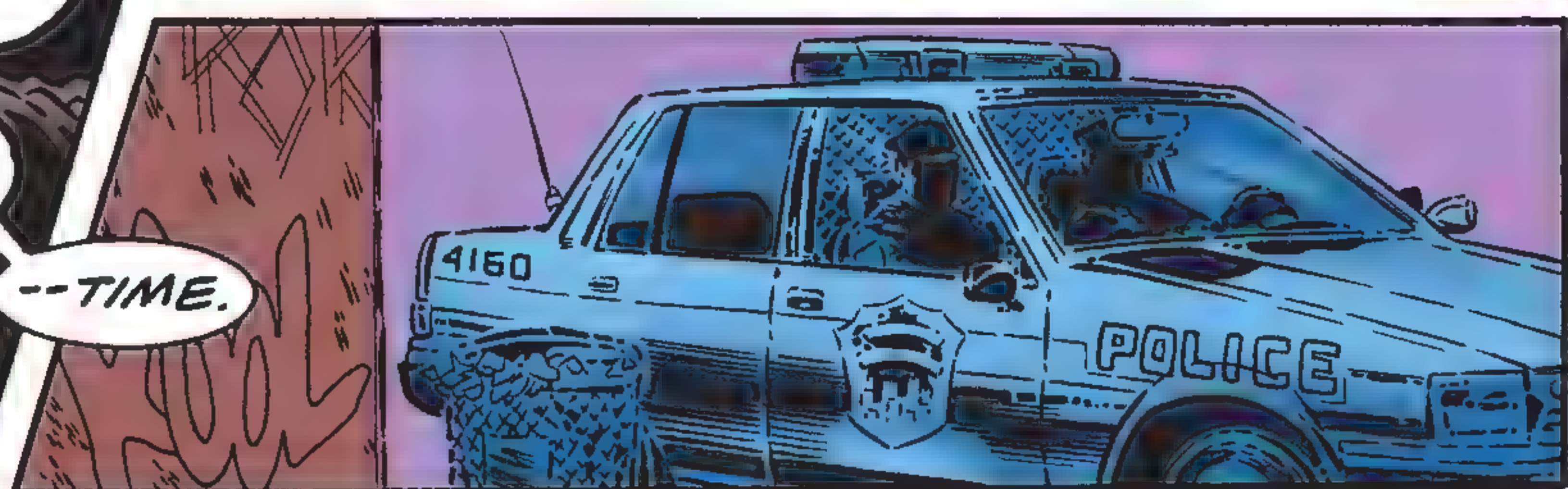
HO \$#!%!
SCAR-- YOU
GONNA TAKE
THAT FROM
HIM?



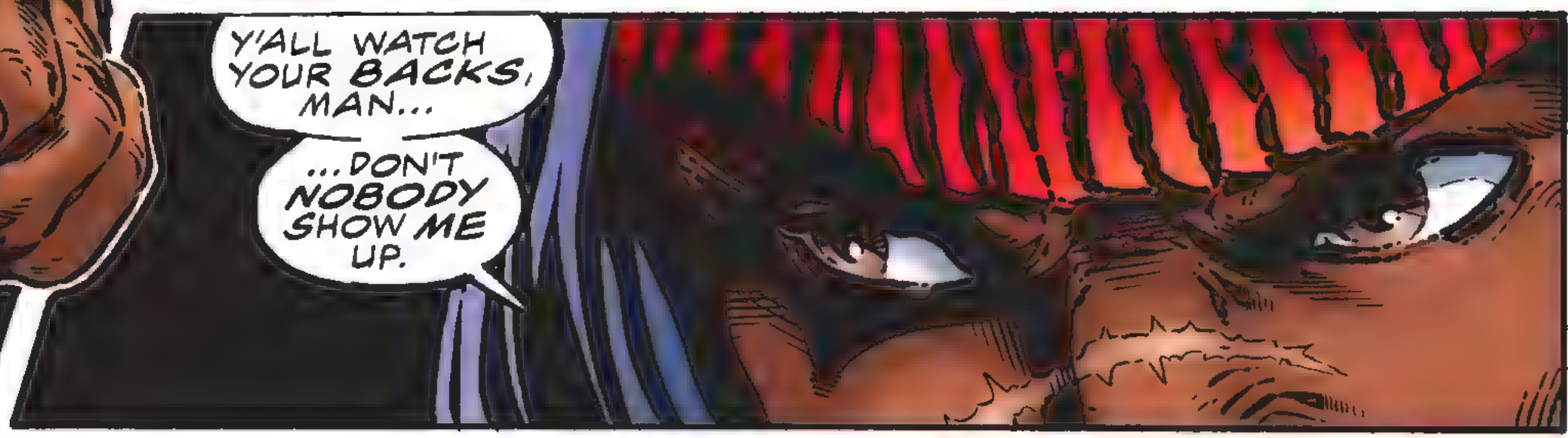
OH, I'M GONNA
TAKE SUMPIN'
FROM HIM,
AWRIGHT...

...ONE
PIECE
AT A--

--TIME.



\$#!%!



Y'ALL WATCH
YOUR **BACKS**,
MAN...

...DON'T
NOBODY
SHOW ME
UP.

THAT WAS NOT SMART, MY BROTHERS. THOSE EASY X BANG-BOYS DON'T TAKE NOTHIN' FROM NO ONE.

AHH, THEY AIN'T NOTHIN', DWIGHT. ALL SHOW, NO GO.

YOU SEE WHAT SCOTT DID TO 'IM, THOUGH, MAN? WA'N'T THAT SOME \$XX%?

YEAH, SLAMMIN'! MAYBE THEY'LL MENTION IT IN THE OBITUARY...

CATCH YOU BOYS LATER. PEACE OUT.

YEAH, PEACE OUT...

...CHICKEN-
\$XX%.

S'PROBLY FRAID OF HIS OWN MOTHER.

MAYBE HE IS, MAYBE HE ISN'T, DEREK...

...BUT WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHY YOU HAD TO GO AND START SOMETHING IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WHY RISK IT, D?

I'VE TOLD YOU WE'RE IN THE HIGHEST MURDER RISK GROUP IN THE COUNTRY... AND YOU SEEM TO WANT TO BECOME A STATISTIC!

YOU GOTTA STAY CLEAN, STAY IN SCHOOL, AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, SO SOMEDAY...

AW, HERE WE GO AGAIN.

NOW YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME HOW WE'RE GETTIN' OUT OF BEDFORD-STUYVESANT SOMEDAY, RIGHT?

MOVE SOMEPLACE BETTER, RIGHT?

YEAH, WE ARE. AND WITHOUT RUNNING DRUGS, OR STEALING, OR KILLING.

I MANAGED TO GET OUT OF HERE ONCE-- NEXT TIME, I'M BRINGING YOU AND MOM WITH ME... TO SOMEPLACE BETTER!

YOU KEEP DREAMIN', MAN...

...MEANTIME, I'LL KEEP LIVIN' IN THE HERE AND NOW!



YOU DO THAT,
LITTLE BRO.

BUT I CAN TELL
YOU FROM PERSONAL
EXPERIENCE, NO MATTER
WHERE THE "HERE"
IS, OR WHEN THE
"NOW" IS...

...IT DOESN'T
PAY TO PLAY
WITH FIRE.

AND I SHOULD KNOW.

MY "HERE" WAS THE COLORADO
SUPER-PRISON KNOWN AS THE
VAULT, AS I LANDED A JOB AS
GUARDSMAN NUMBER SIX.

MY "NOW"
WAS JUST
OVER A YEAR
AGO.

ME AND THIRTY-FOUR OTHER
SUPER-ARMORED GUARDS,
KEEPING AN EYE ON UPWARDS
OF FORTY SUPER-POWERED
CRIMINALS...

...MOST OF WHOM WERE
OUT-AND-OUT MENACES
TO SOCIETY.

MOST, BUT NOT ALL. TAKE
PRISONER #344678, VANCE
ASTROVIK, WHO WE TRUSTED
ENOUGH TO JOIN IN ON OUR
TRAINING SESSIONS.

VANCE WAS A TELE-
KINETIC WHO HAD
USED HIS POWERS TO
DEFEND HIMSELF
AGAINST HIS ABU-
SIVE FATHER...

...AND ENDED UP
ACCIDENTALLY
KILLING HIM.*

VANCE WAS PROBABLY
THE MOST AMAZING
PERSON I MET DURING
MY TOUR AT THE VAULT.

NOT ONLY DID HE
WILLINGLY COMPLY
WITH THE COURT'S
VERDICT AND
SENTENCE...

...BUT HE ACTUALLY
REFUSED THE HELP
OF HIS TEAMMATES,
THE NEW WARRIORS,
WHEN THEY TRIED TO
BUST HIM OUT OF JAIL! **

*IN NEW
WARRIORS #20.

**NEW
WARRIORS
#26.



A YEAR LATER, I FOUND MYSELF TRANSFERRED TO TSTF-12, THE TOP-SECRET TESTING FACILITY IN NEW YORK'S ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS...

...WHERE SCIENTISTS WERE STUDYING THE FOUR ALIEN SYMBIOTES THAT HAD BEEN CAPTURED AFTER VENOM ESCAPED.*

*IN VENOM: SEPARATION ANXIETY.

BUT THE SYMBIOTES BROKE FREE FROM DOC ZWERLING'S LITTLE TORTURE CHAMBER, MERGING INTO SOME KIND OF HYBRID CREATURE...

...AND THEN THEY MERGED WITH ME!

THAT WAS WHEN I REALIZED THEY WEREN'T EVIL LIKE THE VENOM SYMBIOTE...

...AND THAT THE SCIENTISTS WERE KILLING THEM WITH THEIR SADISTIC EXPERIMENTS!

I HAD THE CHANCE TO PREVENT THE HYBRID SYMBIOTES FROM ESCAPING, BUT I LET THEM GO.

AND THAT DECISION COST ME MY JOB... MY CAREER!



I TOOK THE SITUATION INTO MY OWN HANDS. PLAYED WITH FIRE...

...AND GOT BURNED.

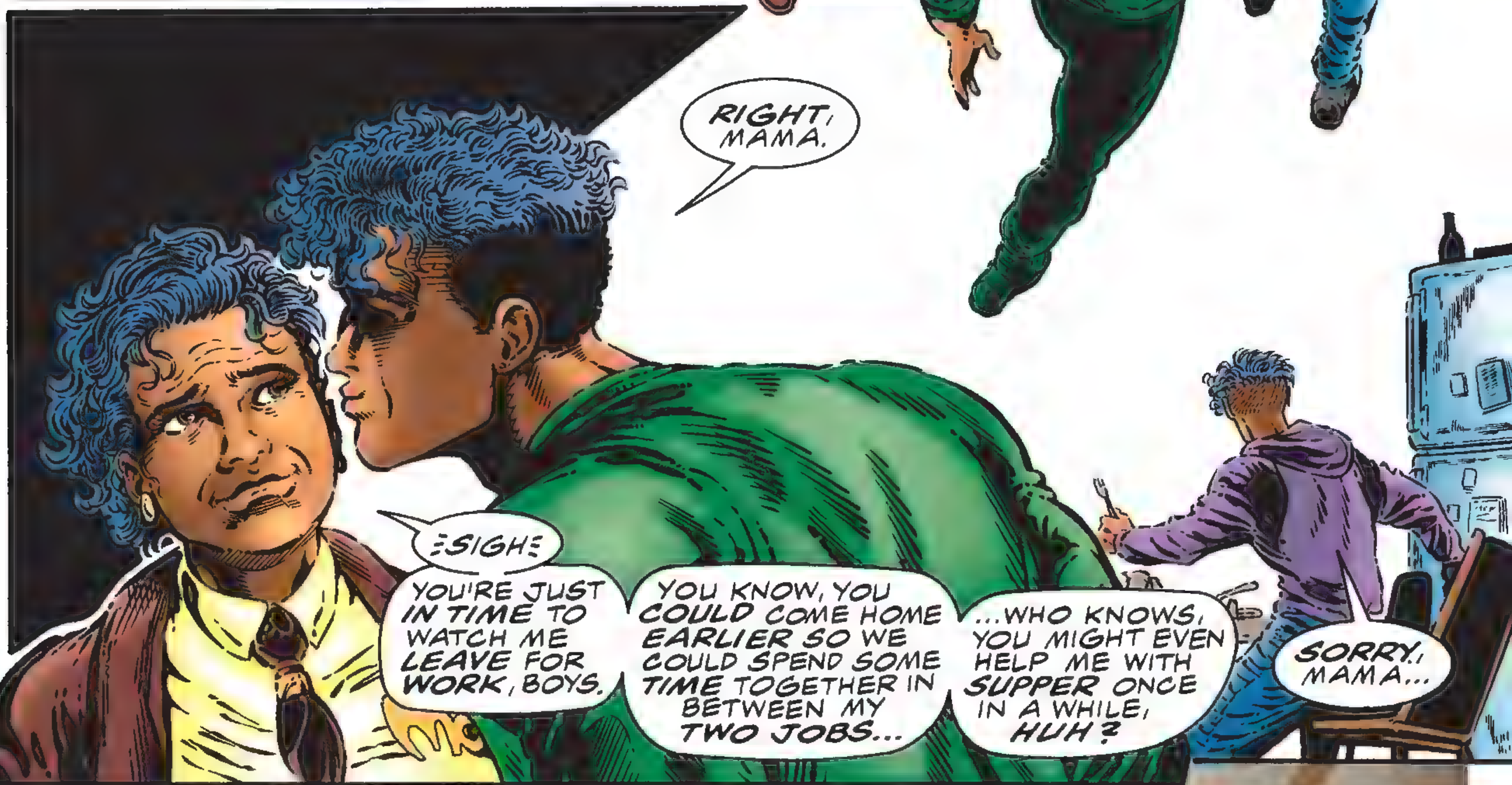
--YO, YOU EVEN LISTENIN' TO ME?

WHA--SORRY, D, WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?

I SAID, "WHEN THEY GONNA GIVE YOU A GUN AT YOUR NEW JOB?"

NEVER.

THERE AIN'T GONNA BE ANY GUNS IN THIS HOUSE, RIGHT?



RIGHT, MAMA.

SIGH

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO WATCH ME LEAVE FOR WORK, BOYS.

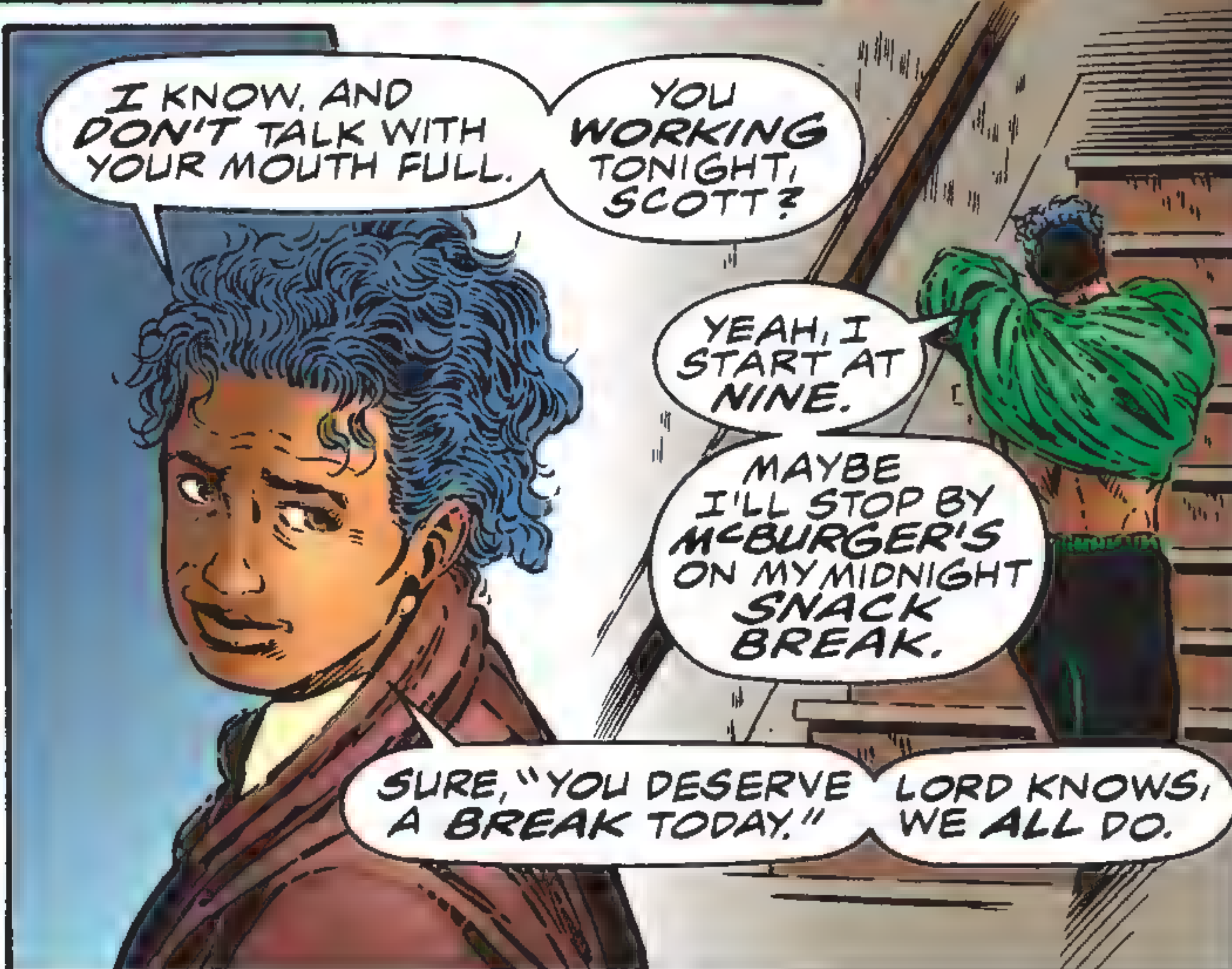
YOU KNOW, YOU COULD COME HOME EARLIER SO WE COULD SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER IN BETWEEN MY TWO JOBS...

...WHO KNOWS, YOU MIGHT EVEN HELP ME WITH SUPPER ONCE IN A WHILE, HUH?

SORRY, MAMA...



...JUS'-- MROWWF-- LOS' TRACK'A TIME-- MRUHH--Y'KNOW?



I KNOW, AND DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL.

YOU WORKING TONIGHT, SCOTT?

YEAH, I START AT NINE.

MAYBE I'LL STOP BY MCBURGER'S ON MY MIDNIGHT SNACK BREAK.

SURE, "YOU DESERVE A BREAK TODAY."

LORD KNOWS, WE ALL DO.

SHE'S WORKING SO HARD, TRYING TO KEEP OUR HEADS ABOVE WATER...

...\$#*%, SO AM I...

...BUT THE GOVERNMENT BOYS DID A REAL GOOD JOB OF BLACKBALLING ME...

...WAS LUCKY TO GET THE NIGHTTIME SECURITY JOB AT THE METROCORP BUILDING, EVEN IF IT IS LOW-

...GOT TO DO BETTER... FOR MAMA, FOR PEREK...

...GOT TO FIND A WAY... TO GET US ALL OUT OF THIS HELLHOLE...

pain

alone

together but still

alone

must find other

must find scott

needs us

need him

SO HOW'S IT GOIN', BIG BRO? YOU INVENTED THE LIGHTBULB YET, OR WHAT?

NAH, I'M AFRAID THERE AREN'T TOO MANY LIGHT-BULBS GOING OFF ABOVE MY HEAD RIGHT NOW.

YOU'RE ALWAYS SKETCHIN' OUT THAT ARMOR YOU USED TO WEAR--WHAT FOR?

SAME REASON I'M LEAVING FOR WORK IN A FEW MINUTES... TO MAKE MONEY SO WE CAN MOVE OUT OF THIS GHETTO.

SEE, I REMEMBER HOW MOST OF THE BASICS OF THE GUARDSMAN ARMOR WORK...

...BUT THE HARD PART IS FIGURING OUT A WAY TO CONVERT WHAT I KNOW INTO SOMETHING PRACTICAL, AND PROFITABLE, AND LEGAL...

HEY--I BET YOU COULD MAKE SOME GREAT CLIPS WITH THAT STUFF!

BANG-BABIES WITH LASERS, MAN... YOU COULD MAKE A FORTUNE.

YEAH, RIGHT. THAT'S WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS.

MAN, WHAT IS UP WITH THOSE #9@EERS AND THEIR CAR SUB-WOOFERS? FRIGGIN' STEREO IS SHAKIN' THE DISHES, FOR GOD'S SAKE--

THUMPA

THUMPA

THUMPA

THUMPA



KRACK

D, THE BACK DOOR--
MOVE!

NOOO



SIX
WEEKS
LATER

THUMPA
THUMPA
THUMPA
THUMPA

YO, MAN,
TURN THAT \$**%
OFF. CAN'T
HEAR MYSELF
THINK.

THUMPA
THUMPA
KLIK

THAT'S
BETTER...NOW
YOU ALL KEEP
Y'MOUFS SHUT,
LEMME DO THE
TALKIN'...

...CUZ THIS IS
WAY TOO BIG FOR
Y'ALL TO *#E%
UP, Y' HEAH?

LOUD
AND,
MAN.

BUT WHA'S IN
THE BOXES?

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE
GONNA FIND OUT,
BOY. NOW SHUT THE
%% UP.

LEON, MY MAN!
HOW'S IT
HANGIN'?

WAIN'T NOTHIN', MAN.
JUDGE DIDN'T HAVE
ANY WITNESSES OR
EVIDENCE...HAD TO
THROW THE CASE
OUT.

STUPID *#%*%@\$
SHOULDA HAD BETTER
LOCKS ON THEIR
DOORS, KNOW WHAT
I'M SAYIN'?

I HEAR YA,
SO, DID THE
OLDER
BROTHER
FINALLY
BITE IT,
OR WHAT?

NAH, JUST
THE LITTLE
\$**%. OLDER
BROTHER'S
PARALYZED,
THOUGH.

WELL, THAT'S SOME-
THIN', RIGHT?

LOOK, MAN,
LET'S GET DOWN
TO IT...

...DID THE
STUFF
COME IN?

PARTS ARE BEING UNLOADED
EVEN AS WE SPEAK, AND I GOT
SOME BOYS WHO'RE GONNA HELP
YOU PUT 'EM TOGETHER.

NOW, THIS
DIDN'T COME
CHEAP, LEON...

...ONCE YOU'VE
WIPE OUT YOUR
RIVALS, YOU
BETTER COME
THROUGH WITH
THE GREEN.

YOU'LL GET WHA'S COMIN'
TO YOU, MAN...JUS' LIKE A
LOTTA OTHER FOLKS.

HEH HEH HENH...

...GANG-BANGERS
WITH RAY GUNS,
MAN...

...LET'S
DO IT.

BROOKLYN'S
MARTIN
LUTHER KING,
JR. HOSPITAL...

I UNDERSTAND HOW
HARD THIS HAS GOT
TO BE FOR YOU, BUT
BELIEVE ME, NO
MATTER HOW YOU
FEEL RIGHT NOW,
I CAN TELL YOU
THINGS WILL GET
BETTER.

IS
THAT
SO?

SEE, WHEN YOU WERE CONVICTED
OF MANSLAUGHTER, IT
MUST'VE BEEN BAD FOR YOU...
BUT YOU KNEW YOU'D BE
OUT IN A FEW YEARS.

YOU KNEW IT
WOULD END.

MY LITTLE
BROTHER'S
DEAD, VANCE.
HE'LL ALWAYS
BE DEAD.

I'M A
PARAPLEGIC.
I'M NEVER
GONNA WALK
AGAIN.

AND THE
*@\$%@ES WHO
DID IT ARE STILL
OUT THERE--
ALIVE AND
WALKING...AND
FREE.

SO DON'T
TELL ME YOU
"UNDERSTAND",
VANCE.

YOUR LIFE
CAME BACK
TOGETHER...
MINE NEVER
WILL.

--KNEW I HAD
TO COME OUT
HERE WHEN I
HEARD WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOU, SCOTT.

I ONLY WISH
I HAD HEARD
ABOUT IT
SOONER.

WELL, THANKS FOR
THE THOUGHT,
VANCE, BUT YOU'VE
GOT NO IDEA WHAT
I'M FEELING.

SCOTT, I...

IF YOU WANT,
MAYBE THE WAR-
RIORS COULD PAY
THOSE DRUG-RUN-
NERS A LITTLE
VISIT--

SAVE IT, MAN.

THIS HAS
NOTHING TO DO
WITH YOU. IT'S
PERSONAL.
BETWEEN ME...
AND THEM.

HENNH. YEAH, I'M GONNA SCARE
HIM WITH MY "WHEELCHAIR
OF DEATH".

ADD SOME ROCKET
BOOSTERS, SOME SIDE-
MOUNTED MACHINE GUNS,
RIGHT? HEH HEH...WHY NOT...

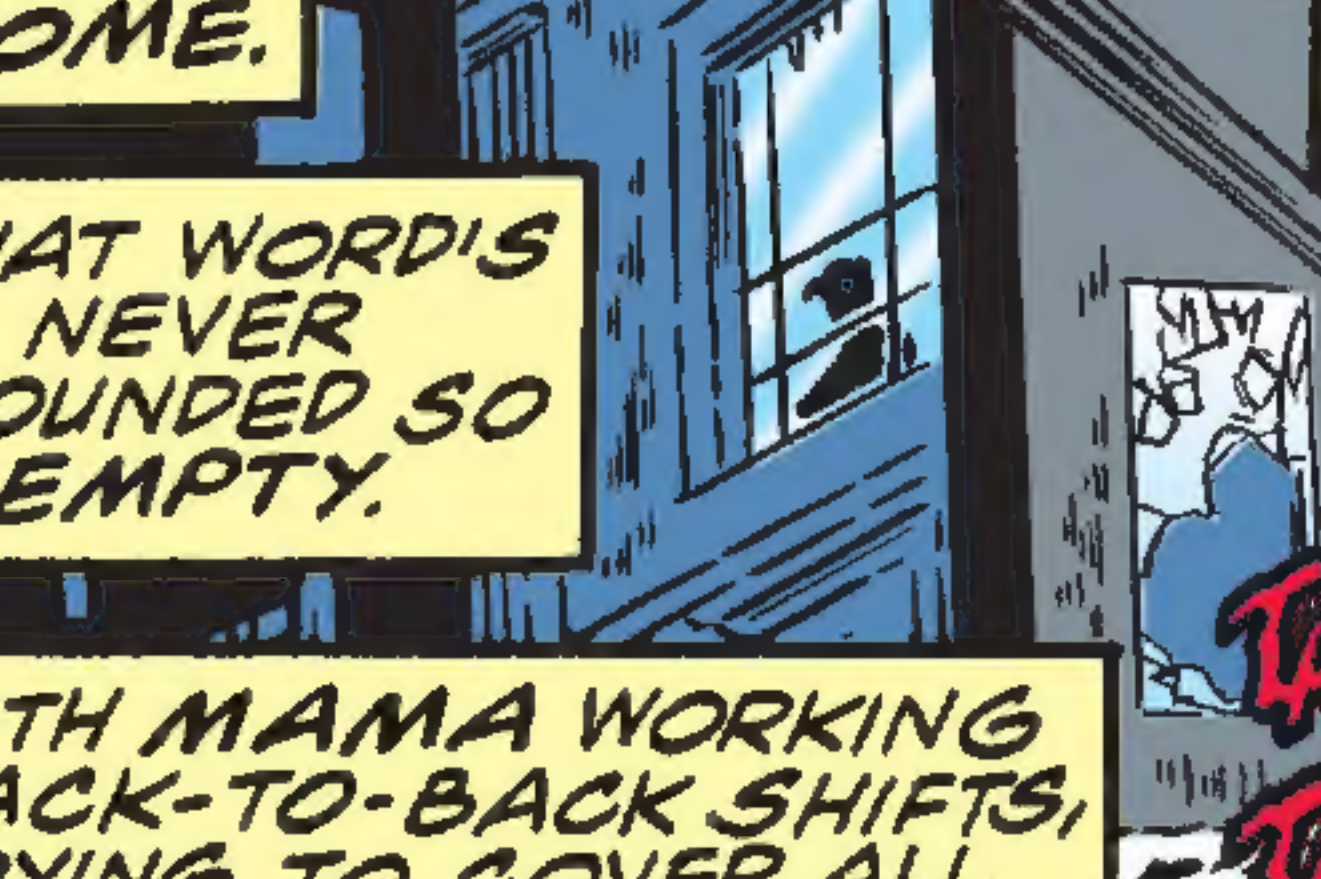
DEREK WOULD'VE
LIKED THAT...

MAYBE SOMEDAY
I'LL FIND A WAY TO
PAY THAT *@\$%@#E
BACK FOR WHAT HE'S
DONE TO MY
FAMILY.

LOOK, SCOTT, THIS IS
WHERE YOU CAN REACH
ME IF YOU NEED ANY HELP.
I... I WISH THERE WAS
SOMETHING ELSE I COULD
SAY, SOMETHING I
COULD DO...

YEAH, WELL,
LIKE I SAID
BEFORE...

... THANKS FOR
THE THOUGHT.



HOME.

THAT WORD'S NEVER SOUNDED SO EMPTY.

WITH MAMA WORKING BACK-TO-BACK SHIFTS, TRYING TO COVER ALL OUR MEDICAL BILLS...

...T

17

Taken

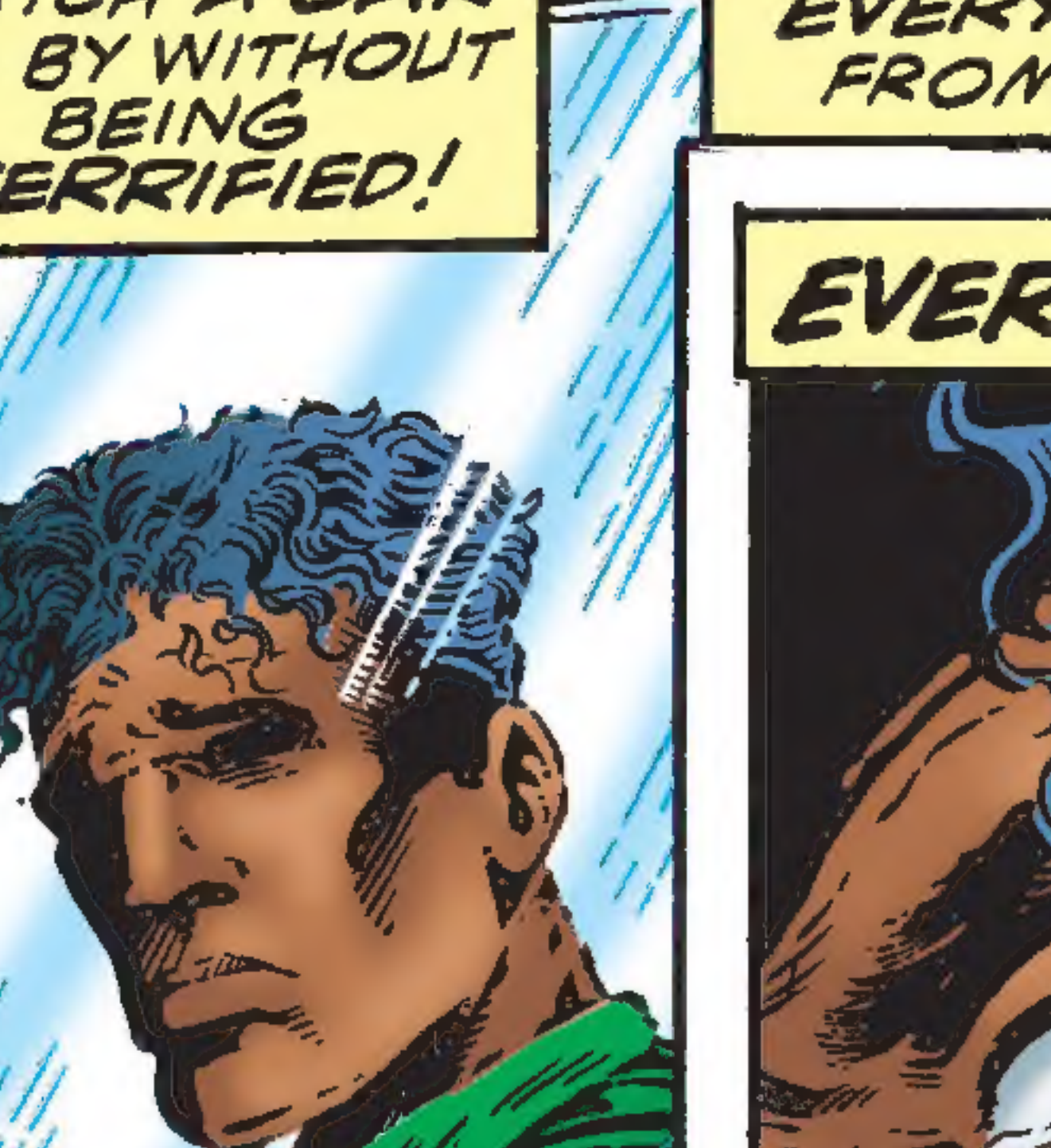
Taken

...AND WITH
DEREK...
GONE...

**I CAN'T EVEN
WATCH A CAR
GO BY WITHOUT
BEING
TERRIFIED!**

**THEY'VE TAKEN
EVERYTHING
FROM ME**

EVERYTHING



A comic book panel featuring a man with curly brown hair and a green shirt, looking distressed. He is holding a small object in his hand. The background is dark with blue diagonal lines. There are three speech bubbles: one on the left, one at the top right, and one on the right side.

IT'S HELL.

--N-NO--CAN'T
BE--NOT THEM
AGAIN--

--NEVER GET AWAY IN THIS CHAIR--

--I'M DEAD--

OH, GOD--
THAT
NOISE--

**GEE-ZUS. J-JUST SOME
KID WITH HIS NEW
SUBWOOFER.**

A comic book panel depicting a dramatic moment. In the upper left, a dark-colored sedan is shown from a side-front perspective, appearing to be in motion or having just crashed. Below the car, a large, intense red face with wide, staring eyes and an open mouth is shown, set against a background of swirling red lines that suggest fire or a powerful force. Overlaid across the center of the image is the word "THUMP" repeated five times in a large, bold, red font with a black outline, slanted diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right. The overall style is that of a classic comic book illustration.

**I CAN'T EVEN
WATCH A CAR
GO BY WITHOUT
BEING
TERRIFIED!**

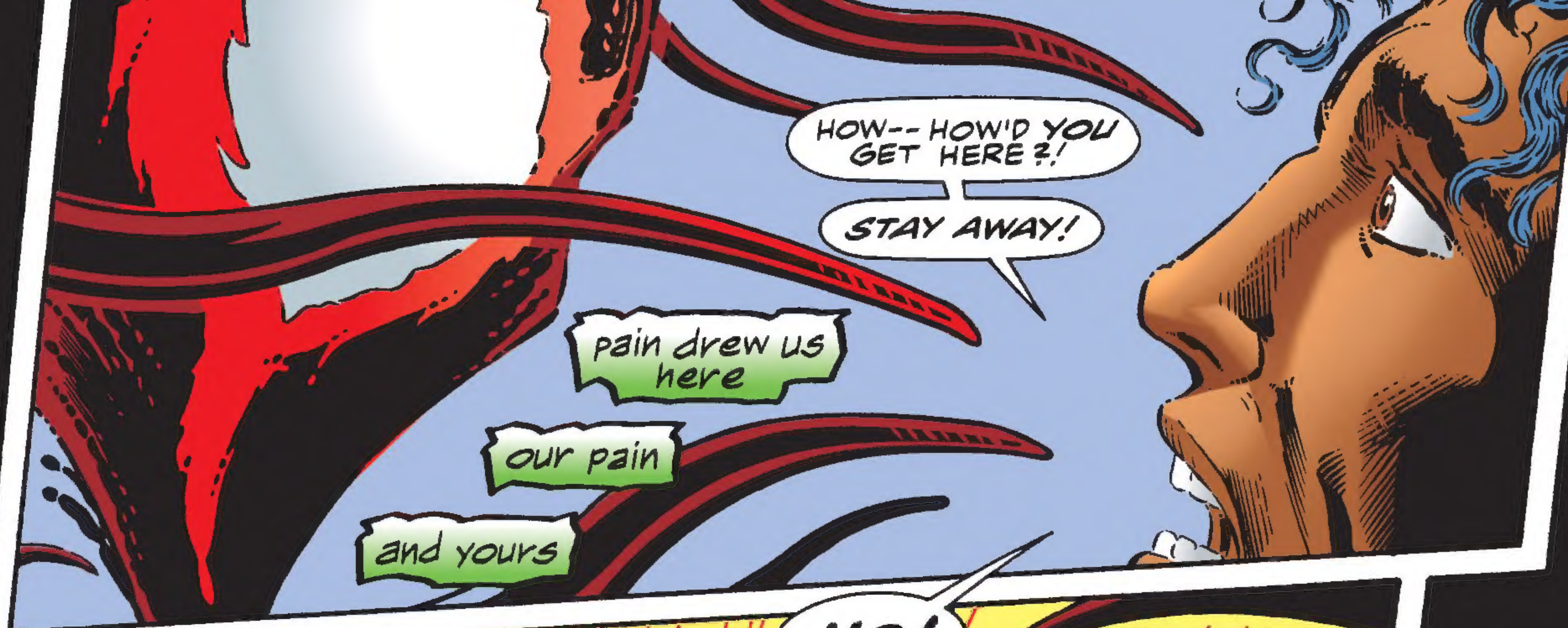
**THEY'VE TAKEN
EVERYTHING
FROM ME!**

EVERYTHING!

no, Scott

not everything

WH--
OH MY
GOD!



HOW-- HOW'D YOU GET HERE?!

STAY AWAY!

pain drew us here

our pain

and yours

NO!



let it happen

scott

we need each other

can help each other



can't wait anymore

starving

need you

you understand us

can protect us

HURGGK

WAIT-- WHY AM I FIGHTING THIS?

WHEN IT MAY HAVE POSSIBILITIES.



wait

you are different

you have changed

FREAKY ALIEN-- THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT--

WAIT-- NOOOO!

EVERY-
THING'S
CHANGED.

I WAS
PARA-
LYZED.

NOW
"WE" CAN
WALK.

I WAS
HELP-
LESS...

...NOW WE'RE
HYBRID!

NO NO NO

THIS IS NOT

WHO YOU WERE

YOU
WANTED TO BE
PARTNERS,
DIDN'T YOU? WELL,
NOW YOU GOT YOUR
WISH.

AND OUR FIRST
ORDER OF
BUSINESS, "MY
PARTNERS"...

...IS
REVENGE!

NOOOOOOO

NEXT: BRUTAL JUSTICE